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July 2014

Goodbye and good luck, Marie Woodard! Long-time JCE teacher retires

By Martie Thompson



Marie Woodard with all the students still at JCE that she has taught over the years.

The final week of school was a week of surprises for retiring Julington Creek Elementary School kindergarten teacher extraordinaire, Marie Woodard—she attended not one but two surprise retirement parties! A fixture at JCE since 1979, Woodard has seen the school grow from just two kindergarten

classes to nine now.

The school-wide celebration of her retirement was explained to Woodard as a Summer Safety Program. As she was leading her class around the amphitheater in anticipation of a school assembly, Woodard immediately could tell she had been duped. All of the students, teachers and

administration were in attendance.

"When I saw my husband and [retired kindergarten teacher] Joanne Espinosa on the stage, I knew something was up," Woodard laughs.

She was treated to a performance by the JCE Chorus as
Marie Woodard cont. on pg. 31

New leaders for Rotary Club of Bartram Trail

By Contributing Writer Carol A. Higley

The members and families of the Rotary Club of Bartram Trail gathered on Saturday, June 28 to celebrate the Rotary Club's service accomplishments from the past year. Michael Andreoni was named Rotarian of the Year for his efforts, including leading the annual favorite, St. Augustine Boys Home Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at Cunningham Creek Elementary's Light the Night, as well as his continuous behind the scenes legwork for St. Johns County Teacher of the Quarter recognition.

Local service projects occurred over the course of the past year benefitting the Creekside Interact Club, Friends of St. Johns County Pet Center, Marines Toys for Tots, Rotary Youth Leadership, St. Augustine Youth Services Boys Home and St. Johns County teachers.

The club's international focus continued PolioPlus Eradication funding and thanks to Chris Sexton, launched High Five Kids, a partnership

that enables children to help other children in need, such as providing accessible clean water as a foundation of basic health and hygiene to elementary students in Guatemala. Rotarians also sponsor Rotary Youth Exchange inbound and outbound students traveling around the world to gain global appreciation and work towards peace and understanding in the world.

In November 2013 the club celebrated its 10 year anniversary serving in the Fruit Cove community and looks forward to the next decade living the

Rotary Club cont. on pg. 13



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Reach the sky with the Civil Air Patrol Fruit Cove Flight

By Karl Kennell

If you want the sky to be your limit and are between the ages of 12 and 19, you now have a unique opportunity. If you are interested in flying, learning to lead, getting in

shape and pushing yourself to new limits, you can now take to the sky by joining the new Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Program in Fruit Cove. Called the Fruit Cove Flight, it is an extension



Cadet Katrina Diduryk

of the CAP St. Augustine Composite Squadron.

The Civil Air Patrol took flight in the late 1930s when more than 150,000 volunteers with a love for aviation argued for an organization to put their planes and flying skills to use in defense of their country. As a result, the Civil Air Patrol was born one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Today CAP's aerospace education efforts have become the focus of many CAP cadets. The programs ensure that all CAP members, both seniors and cadets, have an appreciation for and knowledge of aerospace issues. To advance within the organization, members are required to participate in the educational program. Workshops highlight basic aerospace

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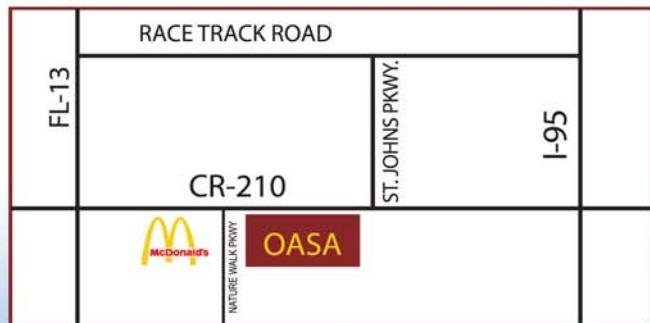
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What's New

Community Happenings

The public is invited to attend the NW St. Johns County Republican Club "County Commissioner Candidate Forum" on Tuesday, July 22, 2014. The social starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by the forum at 7:00 p.m. All qualified County Commissioner candidates have been invited. The forum is being held at the Champions Club in Julington Creek, located at 1111 Durbin Creek Boulevard. For additional information, please visit Facebook: NW St. Johns County Republican Club or contact Kelly Lorbeer at kellylorbeer@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for a huge **craft fair for the benefit of Canine Companions for Independence**, to be held on Saturday, September 6 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Faith Community Church, located on County Road 210. All proceeds will be used to provide an assistance dog for a disabled or hearing impaired child, adult or vet. Unique, handmade items will be available from Helping Hands of St. Johns County, including jewelry, holiday, garden art, fairy gardens, linens, pet items, wearable art, aprons, purses, teen, team and baby items and gifts for all seasons. There is something for everyone! Refreshments available.

Do you have community or club news you would like included in The CreekLine?

Then contact Martie Thompson at: editor@thecreekline.com or 886-4919.

Volunteers are needed for the **COA Memory Enhancement** seminars held at Fruit Cove Baptist Church on Tuesdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or any time within those hours. Duties include assisting staff with activities, making coffee and lunch set-up. To volunteer or for more information, please call Ginny Draper or Elise Moloney at 209-3686 or email gdraper@stjohnscoa.com or emoloney@stjohnscoa.com.

The July meeting of the **Ancient City Chapter of the Florida Writers Association** will take place on Saturday, July 19 at the Main Library in St. Augustine, located at 1960 US Highway 1 (Ponce de Leon Boulevard). The speaker will be Carol O'Dell, award-winning author, blogger and inspirational speaker, talking about "Taking the Confusion out of Social Media Marketing - Practical Tips to Connect with Your Audience." It's a new publishing world out there and social media is one of the most effective ways to connect with your audience. If you're confused as to how to use it and how to connect with the social media outlet that is best for you and your book, then come to the July presentation to learn how to make social media work for you.

The **MOMS Club** is a wonderful way to meet other stay-at-home and part-time working mothers and is a fun way for your children to socialize with other children. Mothers with children of all ages are welcome. Members for this chapter must live in the 32092 or 32095 zip codes, including all neighborhoods along the 210 corridor. We meet once a month to plan our activities for the month ahead. These business meetings are held at Faith Community Church on County Road 210. Children are welcome at all of our meetings and activities. Activities are scheduled for almost every weekday of the month and moms may attend as few or as many activities as they like. Some of the activities we have planned are trips to the zoo, beach/pool days, story time at the library and playgroups at members' homes and local parks. For additional information, please contact sanmoms@gmail.com.

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Letters to the Editor policy

At RT Publishing we welcome Letters to the Editor. We request they be no more than 250 words. All letters must include writer's name, address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published. E-mail to editor@thecreekline.com. Anonymously sent letters will not be published.

com or visit www.sanmomsclub.weebly.com.

The St. Johns County Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your lawn and garden questions at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, located at 60 Davis Pond Road at the entrance to Julington Creek Plantation. The clinic is scheduled for Saturday, July 19 and will run from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. You can bring in a soil sample for free pH testing. Instructions on taking a soil sample can be found on the internet.

The July general meeting of the **All Star Quilters Guild** will be held on Monday, July 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the First Christian Church, located at 11924 San Jose Boulevard. The program will be "Christmas in July," featuring the raffle of a Christmas quilt. For more information, please contact Dot Butler at 642-6574 and visit us at www.orgsites.com/fl/allstarquiltguild and www.facebook.com/allstar-quilters.

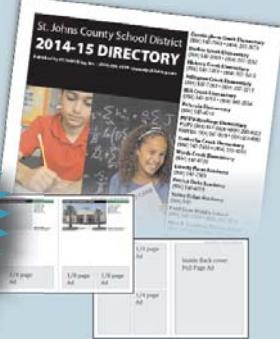
The **Rotary Club of St. Johns** meets at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club clubhouse on Friday mornings from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. Members come

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from most communities along County Road 210 and Race Track Road. For additional information, please contact Tony Lego at tlego@ercsaves.com or visit www.rotarystjohns.org.

Adults and teens age 14 and older are invited to attend the **Project Lap Blanket Crochet group** at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, which will meet on Tuesday, July 15, Tuesday, July 22 and Tuesday, July 29 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The group will crochet or knit blankets for cancer patients at area hospitals. All skill levels are welcome. Can't come to any

of the meetings? Pick up the crochet pattern at the Reference Desk in the library and crochet the blanket in your spare time. Drop off completed blankets and any yarn you'd like to donate during regular library hours. For additional information, please call the Reference Desk at 827-6960.

Get excited! **Mom to Mom** is coming starting September 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Creekside Christian Church. Join us for a time where moms, in all seasons of life, can eat together, obtain support as a mom,

What's New cont. on pg. 4

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From the Commissioner's Desk

By Contributing Writer Cyndi Stevenson,
County Commissioner, District 1

We care about education as a community and St. Johns County Schools achieve excellence because of that. But what about that other local government, our county? Shouldn't we care about those services too? St. Johns County Government plays a significant role in our everyday lives and our local economy, yet we often take it for granted.

Our county services affect many things, from the air we breathe to the water we drink. Our county maintains roads and we funds public safety including the sheriff, courts, jail, fire/EMS and the Emergency Operation Center through our property taxes. These basic services are the foundation to our quality of life and are what most of our county tax dollars are spent on. A small portion of our taxes also fund libraries, ball fields, parks and beach access. These resources are enjoyed by our residents and support our vibrant tourism industry. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, County

Golf Course, County Convention Center and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall are now more fully funded by ticket sales and user fees as well as tourist development tax, but there is a modest subsidy of these venues by general county revenue.

I am both a CPA and the longest serving member on the Board of County Commissioners. It is my opinion that the most pressing issues we face as a county is deciding if we want to maintain our level of service and our quality of life. If we do, the next question is how we choose to pay for it. The main way we pay for local services in St. Johns County is with property taxes. We are heavily dependent on them, in part because we don't charge the other taxes and fees that most other local governments rely on. Below you will see a chart from the St. Johns County Property Appraiser that shows our dilemma. In spite of our growth in commercial and residential development, our



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What's New

Continued from page 3

hear from mom-related speakers, build their faith, develop friendships and learn about motherhood and marriage. This group is for women with small children, as well as moms with grown children and all moms in between. We are based around the Titus 2 principle of women teaching and encouraging other women in their relationships with their husbands and children. We will meet on Thursdays from September 2014 to May 2015. Registration is required and childcare will be available. Please contact Tara Hale at tara.hale@yahoo.com for questions or to register. Creekside Christian Church is located at 92 Life Spring Way, right off Race Track Road. We hope to see you in the fall!

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Annex 106, Oak Leaf Lane and North Ridgecrest Lane from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. For more directions and information, please contact Lt. Al Uy at auy@flwg.us. Also, check out www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 14-7 meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine Yacht Club near the St. Augustine Lighthouse. The flotilla is always looking for new members, particularly those who own aircraft, boats and have radio equipment and skills. If you are interested, please contact Vic Aquino at 460-0243.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is an international weight loss club; our Chapter TOPS #FL493, St. Augustine meets every Wednesday at the old Colee Cove Fire Station, located at 9105 County Road 13 North. We meet at 8:30 a.m. to weigh in and the meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. National dues are only \$28 a year, chapter dues are only \$4 a month. Your first meeting is free, come and check us out! For more information, please call Sara Weaver at 940-7528 or Bobbi Culbreath at 824-2466.

St. Johns County Taxable Value History

Tax Year	Just* Value	Taxable* Value	Taxable Value % Increase/decrease
2003	16,898,723,650	12,496,947,225	14.96 %
2004	19,604,094,248	14,246,267,892	14.00 %
2005	24,492,466,393	17,429,903,315	22.35 %
2006	31,887,787,823	22,092,954,796	26.75 %
2007	35,473,827,468	24,567,928,625	11.20 %
2008	34,409,074,432	23,308,214,715	(5.13) %
2009	28,946,525,556	20,454,452,841	(12.24) %
2010	25,468,579,422	18,363,373,855	(10.22) %
2011	24,121,331,116	17,442,293,649	(5.02) %
2012	23,281,282,992	17,007,614,772	(2.49) %
2013	24,105,077,579	17,497,342,242	2.88 %

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Thank you for all that you do to make St. Johns County a great place to live work and play. Please take the time to sign up for the County Commissioner newsletters online at www.sjcfl.us and thank you for taking the time to vote in the upcoming elections. We have important decisions to make for the future of St. Johns County.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 209-0301 or bccd1@sjcfl.us.



School District Journal

By Contributing Writer Bill Fehling, School Board Member, District 4

It's summertime and our students and our teachers are now getting a well-deserved break. At the District level, we're still wrapping up the year; however, we're well on our way planning for next school year.

One area where we've been busy is in announcing our school administrator changes at some of our schools. The following changes in leadership will take effect July 1 and they are as follows: Ocean Palms Elementary Principal Betsy Wierda announced her retirement and she will be replaced by Jessica Richardson who is presently the assistant principal (and Assistant Principal of the Year) at Cunningham Creek Elementary.

Steve McCormick will be the new principal at Ponte Vedra High School. He has been our principal at Fruit Cove Middle School for the past seven years and FCMS has annually been a top performing middle school in Florida during his tenure. McCormick will replace Principal Craig Spezziale who lost his battle against cancer earlier this year.

Lynn O'Connor, assistant principal at Ponte Vedra High School, will replace McCormick at Fruit Cove Middle School. A replacement assistant principal for PVHS will be announced shortly. Bethany Groves, as-

sistant principal at R.J. Murray Middle School, has been selected to be the principal of Hickory Creek Elementary School, following Dr. Paul Goricki's reassignment to Crookshank Elementary School. Jay Willets will be moving from Crookshank to Pacetti Bay Middle School as principal. These announcements may appear to be many but with a growing district such as ours, this is on par with changes we've made in previous years.

The individuals named will do an outstanding job at their new schools and we're confident they'll keep their schools moving forward and upward.

We finished the school year strong with our annual high school graduations, eighth grade awards ceremonies, and fifth grade awards ceremonies. I would like to extend a big thank you to our awesome classroom teachers, to our smarter-than-ever kids, to our school administrators, bus drivers, maintenance teams, clerical staff, cafeteria workers and to our parents. Without a concerted effort, our schools would not be performing at such a high level and again thank you!!

Our school district celebrated eight high school graduations and it was a joy to watch the excited graduates walk across the stage to receive their diplomas among the cheering of

their family and friends. Our six comprehensive high schools, our St. Johns Technical High School and our St. Johns Virtual High School had over 1,900 seniors graduate and their combined academic achievements have never been higher. In addition, this graduating class demonstrated great character, athletic championships, drama, art, music awards and more service hours in our community than any other graduating class.

Congratulations Class of 2014! You've made our community and our school district proud. You are now prepared for the next chapter in your lives and we know with confidence that you'll be successful in whatever you choose to do. We have the best teachers preparing our students and we have the best parents supporting our local schools and this combination makes our community very special.

Enjoy your summer vacation and we're looking forward to another great school year in August.

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Florida Move Over Act now protects utility vehicles

Utility crews are now protected by the Florida Move Over Act, as they work on the side of roads and highways.

Effective July 1, the Act is amended to include utility service vehicles and sanitation vehicles to the list of public safety vehicles motorists must already slow down or move over for to protect personnel. The amended language was written by Florida Representative Holly Raschein (R-Key Largo) and Senator Greg Evers (R-Pensacola) and passed as part of a larger omnibus transportation package (HB 7005), spearheaded by Representative Daniel Davis (R-Jacksonville).

Under the new law, motorists are required to:

- Approach law enforcement patrol cars, emergency vehicles, utility service vehicles, sanitation vehicles and tow trucks/wreckers with caution.
- Change lanes away from these vehicles if traveling on

a multi-lane roadway and able to move over safely; or

- Slow down to a speed that is 20 mph less than the posted speed limit, when a clearly identified emergency or work-crew vehicle is parked and crews are working.

Violating the Move Over Act can result in a fine and points on your license.

"Safety is a priority at JEA," said Paul McElroy, JEA CEO and managing director. "This new law will help JEA workers restore service both safely and efficiently. JEA joins all utilities in our appreciation to Representative Raschein, Representative Davis, Senator Evers and the Florida Legislature for passing this important legislation that will reduce accidents and save lives."

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles offers more information on the law online at <http://www.flhsmv.gov/safetytips/moveover-tips.htm>.

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The Sheriff Reports

By Contributing Writer David B. Shoar,
St. Johns County Sheriff

Hurricane awareness

I would like to once again devote this month's column on Hurricane awareness or safety. Hurricane season began at the beginning of last month and lasts until the end of November and meteorologists are predicting a near normal or below normal season in the Atlantic basin. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that there will be eight to 13 named storms. Of those they say between three and six could reach hurricane strength and of those, one or two could become a major hurricane of category three or higher.

You should be familiar with the terms Hurricane Watch and Hurricane Warning. A Watch is issued when conditions are favorable that a hurricane could strike in 36 hours. A Warning is issued when hurricane force winds are expected to strike in 24 hours. By this time you should already have an emergency plan for yourself and family and begin implementation of that plan.

Some things to consider in your preliminary plans are:

- Take photos of your property from all angles; it may not look the same once the storm passes.
- Plan for elderly/handicapped/invalid care at a shelter or at home.
- Learn which routes will be safe during a storm.
- Learn where official shelters are located.
- Trim any dead wood from trees prior to the storm.
- Check for, fix or take note

of loose items on your structures (shutters, screens, eaves, gutters, antennas, satellites).

- Get and use a hurricane tracking chart
- Plan what you and your family will do if you have to evacuate.
- Get necessary supplies and secure them in safe area.
- Plan for pet care.
- Review your insurance coverage.
- Protect your important documents.
- Show others in the family how to turn off/on gas, electricity, and water.
- Make outside repairs.

When a Hurricane Watch for your area is issued you should do the following:

- Listen to official bulletins on radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio and internet for updates.
- Check all supplies you already have to see if they are in satisfactory condition include batteries.
- Fill gas tank of vehicles, check oil and tire pressure.
- Inspect mobile home tie-downs.
- Board, tape, cover windows and doors or skylights.
- Secure boat.
- Secure any objects and furniture that are outside.
- Check on all medical supplies, special needs for elderly, handicapped, etc.
- Plan to evacuate if necessary.

When a Hurricane Warning is issued here are some suggestions:

- Stay tuned to TV, radio, internet or NOAA Weather Radio.
- Move valuables to higher location
- Move furniture away from windows and cover.
- Fill containers (bathtub, plastic jugs) with drinking water.
- Use phones only in an emergency.
- Bring in/secure pets (food and water).
- Shut off water and electricity at main breaker switch.
- Leave mobile homes.
- Leave low areas. If evacuating, leave early.

Sometimes a hurricane path may not be predictable and evacuation orders could come at any time. If you are asked to evacuate, please do so early and know the route you will be taking. Remember there will be many folks taking the same route from a very large area so be sure to give yourself plenty of time to leave safely.

Finally, if you refuse to leave following an evacuation order, here are some safety tips for riding out the storm:

- Make sure your building is well-constructed.
- Turn the refrigerator to maximum cold.
- Freeze water in plastic containers; if the electricity goes off you can use the ice to keep food cold in the refrigerator.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by the authorities.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Fill bathtub and containers with water.



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will need to get you through the hurricane watch, warning, storm and aftermath. Print and post this list on the refrigerator or somewhere it will be easily seen.

Please visit our website, www.sjso.org for additional information concerning Hurricane Preparedness and of course feel free to drop me a line at dshoar@sjso.org. It is our hope at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office that you have a safe and happy summer. You can download our App by searching for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office in your "App" store. Also, if you sign up for the Sheriff's Office social media sights on Facebook and Twitter you are sure to receive important updates anytime.

Now is the time to go over your hurricane preparedness. If you have not made any emergency plans, you should do them now. Planning ahead will save you unnecessary stress from not knowing what to do or not having the supplies you

Julington Creek Plantation CDD

May 2014 official vote record and discussions of the Board of Supervisors

By J. Bruce Richardson

The Julington Creek Plantation Community Development District holds monthly public meetings of its Board of Supervisors. The following is a recap of the recorded votes and recorded discussions of the May 13, 2014 meeting as published in the official minutes of the meeting. The meeting was held at the Julington Creek Plantation Club.

In attendance and voting were Supervisors Nina Kannan-Gapinski (Chairperson), Cathy Klein (Vice Chairperson), Sam Lansdale, Natalie Page and Pat Jacob.

Here is a brief record of the discussion and subsequent votes recorded on major items regarding the community development district.

- A discussion about the coordination of public records requests with staff and supervisors began the meeting, with emphasis on the recently decided lawsuit against the chair person and vice chairperson supervisors in favor of the defendants. The result is a new coordination of District Manager Jim Perry making a decision on an individual request basis whether or not to bring a request for public records to the supervisors. Some small requests are easily handled, while the nature of other larger, more complex
- A formal vote was taken on the consideration of annual swim team agreements for summer recreation swim teams, which does not apply to the Loggerheads (a year-round swim team), which use the facilities under a separate plan and agreement. The single notable change in the new contracts requires swim team participants who are non-CDD residents to be required to purchase a non-CDD membership and those membership fees will assist in covering the operating expenses

requests require action by the supervisors.

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JCPD cont. on pg. 11



Your Vote Counts!

By Contributing Writer Vicky Oakes,
St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections

It's a busy time at the Elections Office as the election process begins. Candidate qualifying occurred the week of June 16 through June 20 and the ballot has now been set for the Primary Election. For a complete listing of qualified candidates and the list of candidates who will appear on the August 26 Primary Election Ballot, visit our website votesjc.com

Do you need to register to vote? Change or update your address? Change your party affiliation? Update your signature? Here are some important dates to remember:

July 28: Last day to register or make party changes for the Primary Election

October 6: Last day to register for the General Election

Voter registration applications are available on-line [www.votesjc.com](http://votesjc.com) and must be printed, signed and postmarked by July 28 for the Primary Election for new registrations and party changes. You can also register to vote or submit voter registration applications at any Public Library or the Tax Collectors Office. Address changes can be made any time. Simply call the office to update your address. It is very important to keep your information updated with the Elections Office in order to receive your voter information and sample ballots prior to each election. Remember you can use the Voter Lookup or My Voter

Page on our website to verify your voter registration. Please call 823-2238 if you need any assistance with submitting an application or to update your address.

Since Florida is a closed primary state, in the Primary Election you are only eligible to vote the ballot of the party in which you are registered. All voters may vote for nonpartisan races in a primary. If there is a particular candidate you wish to vote for, you may wish to verify your party affiliation prior to the July 28 deadline.

If you are going to be away or wish to vote by mail, it's not too early to request your absentee ballot. You can call the office at 823-2238 or make your request on line. We will have nine days of early voting for the Primary Election. The dates are August 15 through August 23. Our six locations will be open daily from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

We are your one source for voting information: www.votesjc.com. Our website is updated regularly with candidates, ballot information, early voting dates, times and locations. Visit us regularly to see "What's New."

The August 26 Primary will be a very important election this year. A number of our local officials will be elected in the Primary Election. I encourage you to participate and exercise your right to vote!

Award-winning flooring store expands to second location

Residents from San Marco to St. Johns and St. Augustine can now step into a whole new flooring experience as About Floors n' More opens its doors in the Bonefish Shopping Center, at the corner of San Jose Boulevard and Claire Lane. Owners Richard Scherzer and Rick Costner say they attribute their success to four simple words: Why We Are Different.

"Once people realize we are invested in helping them create a beautiful home for a lifetime, they know we are not just a local flooring retailer, but rather, a partner in their lives well-lived," Scherzer explains.

Both Costner and Scherzer run a business that has been serving Jacksonville with quality Mohawk products for over 15 years and know the value of integrity and relationships.

About Floors n' More is Jacksonville's only Floorscapes 5-star dealer, recipient of the Angie's List Super Service award, multiple winners of

Mohawk's Florida Dealer of the Year and voted Small Business Leader of the Year for the Arlington Council of the Chamber of Commerce.

"Our word is our bond. That's our philosophy; we'll always give it to you straight. An informed consumer becomes a confident customer. Flooring is a big decision and can be a major investment for a family. It's our job to empower every person that walks through our doors, so at the end of the day, they have a feeling of pride when they walk through theirs," Scherzer says.

In addition to Mohawk carpet, wood, tile and laminate, About Floors n' More also carries Karastan, Daltile, Columbia and Mirage.

About Floors n' More means more elegance, more quality, more service. To see more of what they offer, stop by their new Mandarin location today!

Be sure to see their ad in this issue of *The CreekLine*!

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Preregistration is the way to go for new kindergarteners!

The St. Johns County School District is encouraging parents to register kindergarten students and students new to the county and/or the public school system before school starts on August 18. All NW St. Johns County elementary and middle schools are operating out of their area high school. Parents may contact schools at their regular phone number for registration information or go to their zoned school's consolidation site to register their children, which is available at [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/about/press/2014-6-6\(2\).](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/about/press/2014-6-6(2).)

The schools are currently operating Monday through

Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. All schools and district offices will be closed during the week of July 14 through 18 and will reopen on Monday, July 21.

To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be five years old on or before September 1 and must reside in St. Johns County. To register for first grade, children must be six years old on or before September 1 and have successfully completed kindergarten.

The child's certified birth certificate is required at the time of registration and only the legal name is acceptable on student records. In addition, parents should bring two proofs of

residency, i.e. current utility bill, lease and/or mortgage statement. Florida law also requires any student entering a Florida school for the first time to show proof of certain immunizations and physical examinations.

A physical examination that has been performed within one year prior to enrollment in school will be accepted. Physical examinations can be acquired from either a private physician or from the county health department.

Additional information on registration and school attendance zones can be obtained from the Student Services Office at 547-7598.

Keep St. Johns County Schools at the Top!



August 26

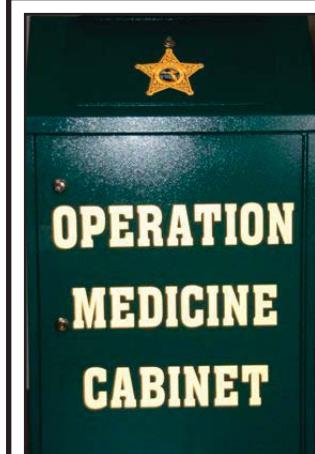
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Housing market stabilizing in NW St. Johns County

By Contributing Writer Amanda Long, Watson Realty Corp.

The median sales price for homes in Northwest St. Johns County is on the rise, according to a local market update released by the Northeast Florida Realtors Association (NEFAR). The year-to-date median sales price in Northwest St. Johns County as of May is \$268,970. This is up from last year's median sales price of \$239,000 by 12.5 percent.

Donna Overman, vice president/managing broker of the Watson Realty Corp. Mandarin North Office, described NW St. Johns County as a highly desirable area due to the reputation of the school system, the quality of life for families and the close proximity to Duval County.

"I feel very positive about the prospects for this area," Overman said. "Lots of great things are happening in St. Johns County including the upcoming expansion of Northrop Grumman."

Northrop Grumman is a global aerospace defense technology company. The company is making an \$80 million

expansion to its St. Augustine manufacturing plant. The expansion will bring at least 400 new jobs to the area, which should lead to relocations.

New listings are increasing, with 1,200 new listings year to date. Last May, the year-to-date total of new listings was 1,128. The increase is at 6.4 percent for the year.

Despite the rise in listings, closed sales are down from 2013. At the end of May 2013, the number of closed sales was at 789. This year, closed sales total 706, down 10.5 percent from last year.

"The reduction in sales can be attributed to many institutional investors not being as aggressive with acquisitions," explained Dane Leslie, vice president/managing broker of the Watson Realty Corp. Mandarin South Office.

With home prices rising, the market is no longer fit for investors.

The NEFAR report shows even though closed sales are down, the average number of days on the market until sale

TREE BANK FUNDS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR WGV PARK

POSSIBLE SOLUTION: One possible solution I have suggested for clearing the donated park in the World Golf Village (WGV) area was to examine the possibility of Tree Bank funds.

WHAT IS A TREE BANK FUND? In a recent email from the county it was stated that, "The Tree Bank Fund was created to pay for the replanting of trees lost. However, its use has been extended to the development of conservation areas of public use."

EXAMPLE OF OTHER PURPOSE: On March 3, 2009, the St. Johns County Commission pledged \$275,000 of Tree Bank funds to be used for purchase of land and closing costs (which include realtor fees, doc stamps, possible attorney fees) for Guana North Park.

GUANA NORTH PARK INCLUDES PARK, COMMERCIAL LOCATION, OFFICE FACILITIES, BUILDINGS, ETC...also proposed: Conservation Resource Center buildings; outdoor adventure complex; restaurant; meeting rooms; offices; exhibit area; rooms for rent; kayak-bicycle-paddleboard-surfboard rentals; guided tours; small retail space selling gift items such as t-shirts, sunscreens, bug sprays, hats; educational trail; gazebo; rental use for weddings-events-trainings; kiosks; interpretive displays; showroom with LEED initiatives; outdoor scientific classroom; wet lab; modular office space; remote office for St. Johns Parks & Rec; IFAS; USGBC; community classroom; kitchen; solar panels over parking area; showers; electric car charging station, etc.

OVER THE PAST 7 YEARS: The Tree Bank Fund has had a seven-year average budget of \$3.3 million with a seven-year average expenditure of only \$201,000 – that is only 6% of the budgeted amount!

WGV PARK: Since the County Commission saw a nexus between the Tree Bank Fund and the Guana North Park and all its proposed uses, then there are grounds for a nexus between the Tree Bank fund and the World Golf Village Park, including athletic fields. We owe it to our residents to examine this possible option.

For more information on Kim J. Kendall's campaign, visit www.VoteKimKendall.com



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has decreased from 101 days in 2013 to only 88 days for 2014. The average number of days on the market for May was 85 days.

Overman also noted, "New construction is coming back strong and attracting new buyers."

The St. Johns County Building Service Monthly Report shows that there were 252 permits issued for new single-family homes in May. This

is more permits than the 227 issued in Duval County in May, according to the Duval County Building Inspection Division Statistical Report.

According to RealtyTrac's Foreclosure Trends Report, one in every 608 homes in St. Johns County is in foreclosure. The state average for Florida is one in every 436 homes.

Overall, the market has improved since 2013 with new listings, sales prices and days

on the market all recovering.

"We now have a traditional market with moderate price appreciation and appropriate inventory levels," said Mark Rosener, vice president/managing broker of Watson Realty Corp.'s St. Johns Office. "It is neither a buyers' nor sellers' market."

For additional information, please contact amandalong@WatsonRealtyCorp.com.

E Pluribus Unum: Civics for One and All

By Contributing Writer James A. Lee, jal@rtpublishing.com

In January 1787, Thomas Jefferson, serving as Minister to France, wrote from there a letter to his fellow Virginian, James Madison. That letter is often quoted for one line in particular, "I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical." Jefferson was making the point to his friend that democratic republics offer the best opportunity for liberty and happiness. But he also stated that such governments suffer evils, primarily that of turbulence. Such turbulence is what Jefferson believed to be sometime necessary so as to prevent "the degeneracy of the government."

I was reminded of this quote recently when I came across a video that has been making a comeback tour on social media. The video is of Matt Damon in 2012 reading an excerpt from a speech made in 1970 by the late historian, Howard Zinn. The speech, easily found online, is entitled "The Problem is Civil Obedience." It begins with the line, "I start with the supposition that the whole world is topsy-turvy, that things are all wrong." Zinn was a well-known historian and activist. His most famous book, *The People's History of the United States* is an excellent and controversial example of critical theory in that he surveys our nation's history from the perspective of the oppressed African-Americans,

women, labor unions, Native Americans, etc. Whether you agree with it or not, his is an interesting and vital perspective to consider. Zinn was a self-proclaimed Marxist and anarchist who has been lauded and criticized extensively. Zinn, representing the counter-culture movement of the 1960s and 1970s, was arguing that civil obedience allows the people of a society to be led blindly into oppression by a government controlled by a self-serving elite. The fact that a celebrity of Matt Damon's status chose to read from this 1970 speech in the political context of 2012 (and the now renewed interest in that video) raises the question, for whom is Damon speaking?

Might he be speaking for the liberal left that Damon himself professes to support? That would make sense and certainly Zinn's speech supports much of the thought in today's liberal agenda, i.e. gay rights, increased minimum wage, removal of troops from Afghanistan, etc. However, if we approach the "topsy-turvy" supposition from the perspective of another current political movement, we find some interesting similarities.

The current political landscape is scattered with the rubble left from the inter-party battles between moderate "establishment" Republicans and more extreme conservative Tea Party Republicans. Consider

the talking points of people like Iowa Congressman Steve King, Texas Senator Ted Cruz, Sarah Palin and many others. Their declarations that our government (IRS, NSA, etc.) has become too large and too intrusive could have fit perfectly into either Zinn's speech or Jefferson's letter. Maybe, if Thomas Jefferson were here to comment, he might say that Damon channeling Zinn and the Tea Party movement are merely two contrasting and equal turbulences attempting to prevent the "degeneracy of government."

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William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway update

By Contributing Writer Al Abbatiello, alabba@comcast.net

Your William Bartram Scenic Highway Group is now enjoying a well-earned summer vacation. The group may be vacationing, but its officers are still moving the ball forward. We're involved in helping edit a recently completed historical analysis, completing arrangements for a September fundraiser, furnishing news on developments in the area and writing these articles. We are keeping busy.

The Scenic Highway officers continue to work keeping group members informed of the progress of our current, history project for the county school district and the happenings in St. Johns County that potentially affect State Road 13.

In our most recent meeting of June 12, we discussed the historical narrative created by Charlie Philips, as part of our contract with Brockington Associates. We also discussed status of our website including the addition of two new site pages. Decisions were made and the project is moving forward to a September conclusion.

Copies of the historical narrative have also been distributed to the group asking for their feedback on or before the end of June. In addition, we were advised that one page summaries of the 12 proposed radio scripts for the radio show, *Florida*

Frontiers, are being completed and will be distributed to the group for approval. The radio script summaries are intended for use by the host of the radio show. This radio program airs interesting stories of Florida history on NPR radio at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays.

On reading the historical narrative and radio script summaries, I can assure my readers they will be impressed and will become extremely well informed of the early history of NW St. Johns County. They'll learn facts about the early inhabitants of Northeast Florida from prehistoric times through the present, including Timucuan Indians and French, Spanish and English occupation periods.

The role of the St. Johns River in Florida's commerce is extremely interesting as the river was very important to early commerce of the region due to the treacherous nature of the Atlantic Ocean at St. Augustine. It was much safer to travel up river and across to St. Augustine by land. Northeast Florida, NW St. Johns County and St. Augustine also have a civil war history that will surprise and interest readers.

The Brockington Team is also preparing a short historical video (per contract) to accompany the historical lesson plan. On completion, all the elements

of the history project will be shared with everyone via the William Bartram Scenic Highway website (www.bartramscenichighway.com). The website will give readers a better understanding of the William Bartram Scenic Highway Group, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization. Tax deductible donations are always welcome.

The annual Antique Appraisal event will again be held at the RiverTown development on the Scenic Highway; the date is September 20. Details will be in my next column in August.

Our next meeting is on September 11, 2014—a sad date in American history but the start of another active year for the group. Date, time and location in my next column.

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tag! Children's Museum joins forces with Shipyard Project

Children and their families in Northeast Florida are a major step closer to having a unique place to celebrate play and creativity. What was formerly known as the Children's Museum of St. Johns has been renamed tag! Children's Museum of St. Augustine. And our name change is just one of several significant developments of late.

After careful consideration of a number of locations in the St. Augustine area, tag! has signed a purchase agreement with GreenWood Property, LLC, the developers of the new St. Augustine Shipyard Project, which is located on the former DESCO and Luhrs boat manufacturing site off of U.S. Highway 1. The museum is now part of the project's phase two efforts, which also includes potential restaurants, shops, a hotel, wet boat storage and a promenade. The tag! Children's Museum plans to break ground on its new site – located behind the Target shopping center facing the San Sebastian River – in fall of this year and be open by fourth quarter 2015.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to build the museum on such a beautiful, accessible property where children will be able to explore and discover while instilling a love of learning," says Kim MacEwan, executive director of the tag! Children's Museum. "tag! will be a vibrant, playful, collaborative, intergenerational experience that meets the genuine needs of families, children and local schools and will help make St. Augustine a more supportive and educated community as we move into the future."

In addition to securing the location, tag! also has finalized its master plan, which includes

architectural renderings of the building as well as details of the numerous indoor and outdoor exhibits developed by the renowned interactive design firm Cloudberry, based in New York City. The exhibits will address a variety of specific needs that are not currently being met by other venues in St. Augustine, including STEM education, open-ended (free) play, personal relevance and the arts. Children will learn about a wide range of topics and will have numerous opportunities to experience hands-on learning through the museum's exhibits on oceans and marine life; story gardens; sports; the human body; life sciences, technology and media labs; weather station; underground observatory; ant farms; treehouses and so much more.

It is estimated the museum will attract 85,000 visitors annually (that's 55,000 children) and add nearly \$2 million to the local economy. In July, the tag! Children's Museum kicks off its capital campaign with the intent of raising \$8 million. More than \$1.6 million has been raised to date, including funding from individuals and other nonprofits like the Junior Service League, which recently raised approximately \$20,000 through its annual "Feel the Wheels" event.

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A new website name for JCP means better services

By Contributing Writers Dottie Kriner, Regional Manager/LCAM, MAY Management Services Inc. and Dianne Battle, POA Publicity Committee, Julington Creek Plantation

Julington Creek Plantation will be retiring their old property owners' association (POA) website name in July and replacing it with a shorter and easier-to-remember name: www.jcppo.org! No more www.julingtoncreekplantation.org; give your typing fingers a break! There are also more website services for our property owners. Please note that the Recreation Center website name, www.jpcdd.org, will not change; this only affects the POA website.

This spring the POA website was enhanced in several ways:

- The site was reorganized to make it easier to find the information you need including subdivision Covenants and Restrictions, maps, almost 50 Frequently Asked Questions, forms, current news, site search and site index features.
- Property owners with a website login can list a lost-or-found item or pet on the home page and get an email blast sent to other property owners. If you don't have a website ID, fill out the online form to have one processed for you.
- Once again in October, residents will be able to list a free ad on our website during our semi-annual community garage sale!
- New FAQs are constantly added to help property owners address issues and questions. MAY Management is always happy to help answer homeowner questions, but when the office is closed residents can find self-help online. In addition to association-related questions, general homeowner-type issues are addressed, as are seasonal questions like lawn care, hurricane preparedness and holiday safety.

When www.jcppo.org becomes our official website name, our members will enjoy extra privacy protection when signing in. Secure Socket Layer encryption (SSL) will make members' personal information

more secure. These improvements were implemented through a cooperative effort between MAY Management, the POA board of directors and committee volunteers. Good things happen when we all work together.

You might have seen the ad in last month's issue of *The CreekLine* advising you to start using www.jcppo.org right away. If you did, you are ahead of the game. We'll be retiring www.julingtoncreekplantation.org by mid-July.

If you have suggestions for additional website features or want to volunteer for one of the POA committees, contact MAY Management by phone 880-8796 or use the email contact forms on www.jcppo.org.

Thanks for your patience as we work through the name change. And think about volunteering for a committee. Just a few hours a month can make a big difference for our community. Good things do happen when we all work together!

Passages now offered at Patriot Oaks Academy for incoming sixth and seventh grade girls

By Contributing Writer Kerry Hale

We are happy to announce that Passages, a transition program for incoming sixth grade girls will be offered at the new Patriot Oaks Academy. This two-day summer program will introduce girls to many middle school skills including changing classes, making the best use of her locker, opening her combination lock, dressing out for P.E., study and organizational strategies, peer pressure and much more. It will be held at their actual middle school with seventh and eighth grade middle school girls to mentor

them during the program.

Last year's participant, Bailey C. said, "Passages was so much fun. I feel so good now that I know where everything is. I love how you feel after the program—confident."

The Patriot Oaks Academy (POA) program is offered on July 30 and 31 (Wednesday and Thursday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The price for the two-day session is \$40.

There will also be a brief half-day program offered for incoming seventh grade girls

entering POA on Tuesday, July 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The cost is \$10. This brief program will focus on acclimating to the new POA school changes.

For more information about Passages or to enroll your daughter in POA's session, please contact Kerry Hale at 5hale@comcast.net indicating POA in your email.

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The Lifestyle Guru Summer '14.... going on a final fling!

By Joy Hartley

Before those yellow school buses start pulling through our subdivisions here in North Florida we should all execute a plan for a "final fling." This could be a short day trip around our area - not an expensive day but a fun one. So I pulled my favorite planning guides* out of our bookcase and thought I would share some ideas with you.

A day trip to St. Augustine is always a fun getaway! Have you taken your little ones to the Splash Park at the Pier? It's a blast for the kids and free! Also a "freebie" for us St. Johns County residents is a tour of Ponce de Leon Fountain of Youth. It's a legendary spot where old Ponce landed here in the New World. There is lots of history and Indian artifacts that the older children will love!

And of course I suggest you end the day with a picnic. I love the picnic area in front of the Lighthouse and Museum. It's canopy-covered with fabulous old oak trees and is on the waterfront. Of course you could pull into Anastasia State Park and picnic and then take a swim in the ocean to end the perfect day's outing.

Another great day trip is to spend the day a little south of St. Augustine. Just head down ole A1A and make your first stop at Marineland for a new "hands on" marine experience. Then turn left and pull into Washington Oaks State Park for a wonderful shady picnic spot and a nice nature walk afterwards. Then just cross the street for another end of the day swim time in the Atlantic for the whole family.

If you just have half a day or your little one's attention span is short, stay local and go to Alpine Groves Park or Mandarin Park. Both facilities are equipped with picnic shelters, grills, great playgrounds and restrooms. Alpine Park boasts its fabulous Butterfly Garden thanks to the green thumb gals of Switzerland Garden Club.

There is something blooming in this great space 12 months of the year. After lunch you can walk off your sins by taking the nature trail that ends at the river. Mandarin Park fronts Julington Creek and offers a fishing dock, shuffleboard courts and tennis courts.

If you have lived in Florida and your children have not swum in "the springs" shame on you! You must experience a visit to these areas that have been tourist attractions since the 1880s. A good day trip would be a jaunt to DeLeon Springs State Park. You can take a history boat tour that has side benefits like looking for alligators, bald eagles and other water birds. Then enjoy a dip in the 72 degree spring that is adjacent to a beautiful shady picnic ground—but for fun have lunch at the Old Spanish Sugar Mill Restaurant, you can cook your own pancakes at your table!

Whatever you do go out and enjoy the First Coast before you get into that hectic school schedule this fall! For my recipe this month I am publishing my family's favorite dish, deviled eggs. I can make simple sandwiches, pick up chicken at the grocery or any other drive by food, but if we don't have deviled eggs it's just not a picnic!

My Family's Favorite Deviled Eggs

6 hardboiled eggs
3 tbsp. mayonnaise
1 tsp. mustard
Salt and pepper

Cut eggs lengthwise in half. Remove yolks; place in medium bowl. Mash with fork. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Spoon into egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika if desired.

* "Must have" local periodicals: *The Florida State Park Guide* (free at parks) and *Family Fun on Florida's First Coast* (Barnes and Noble).

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Hospital's new staff uniforms provide safety layer



quality and safety to create the safest possible environment for our patients and staff."

More than 6,000 Baptist Health inpatient staff with frequent patient contact, including nursing, imaging, respiratory therapy and environmental services members, are converting to the new uniforms during the phase one distribution. Staff uniforms will also be color-coded by function so that patients can more easily recognize who is caring for them.

Baptist Health is focused on making health care safer for everyone – staff as well as patients and their families. The more than \$1 million Baptist Health is investing in phase one for the uniforms and patient garments represent this commitment to safety and the brand promise of "Changing Health Care for Good."

Diane Raines, Baptist Health's senior vice president and chief nursing officer, said patients ages one year and older also will receive newly-designed apparel made from Vestex protected fabric that "provide them with dignity as well as protection. Baptist Health is not making the change because of a problem with infection, but to be proactive in our use of technology to enhance our environment. The technology is part of a broader safety strategy designed to reduce exposure to pathogens."

Hand washing, Raines said, remains the primary strategy as well as rigorous cleaning of rooms and other surfaces, appropriate use of personal protective equipment, appropriate preparation of patients for surgery, and other measures.

"We know that this technology is not the ultimate answer to achieving zero infections," Raines said. "However, as with many patient safety 'bundles,' the adoption of this technology combined with an enhanced emphasis on other infection prevention techniques will elevate our level of protection for patients and staff and enhance the safety of the health care environment."

The health care industry nationally is moving toward

Baptist Health is the first health system in the world to widely adopt specialized staff and patient garments that repel fluids and minimize the risk of transmission of organisms. As part of a continued commitment to patient safety, Baptist Health is partnering with Vestagen Technical Textiles of Orlando, a global innovator in the development of advanced textile technologies.

More than 30,000 pieces of staff uniforms, lab coats and scrub jackets for employees are being distributed in phase one and will feature Vestex® textile technology, which has a durable fluid barrier, an antimicrobial and a special breathable material for wearer comfort. Baptist Health plans to rollout patient apparel featuring the same technology in September. The fabric's fluid barrier binds to individual fibers, resulting in material that is highly repellent to bodily fluids, water, oil and dirt. This high repellency has been shown to synergize with Vestagen's embedded antimicrobial technology to prevent organism from being acquired and retained on the fabric. Soft surfaces, like uniforms, are vectors for the spread of organisms in acute care settings.

"Patient safety is the bedrock of what we do," said Baptist Health President and CEO Hugh Greene. "There is nothing more important than the safety of our patients and these garments are part of an organization-wide emphasis on

improvements in infection control. Baptist Health is a pioneer in the field well before guidance came out in February from the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America on recommendations to prevent transmission of health care-associated infections from health care personnel attire. The report points to studies demonstrating that clothing of health care personnel, including the traditional white coat, may have a role in transmission of pathogens and that future studies are needed

"We believe this is not just an investment in uniforms, but in an innovative technology that will make our environment safer," said John Wilbanks, Baptist Health chief operating officer. "This is a symbol of our commitment to our staff and their families, and our patients and their families."

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Survivors provide support to Mothers For TBI Hope, Inc.

When Tracy Porter's 16-year-old son suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) after a car crash 10 years ago, she realized what would be necessary for other families arriving at the hospital facing the same fear with their loved ones.

For the past nine years, Porter has pioneered traumatic brain injury support and awareness throughout the state of Florida through her 501c3 organization Mothers For TBI Hope, Inc. and the Totes of Comfort and Hope Program. Thanks to Porter's program, within 24 hours after a family arrives at the hospital, they receive a multi-purpose tote bag filled with personal toiletries, comfort items, useful tools, statewide resources, information about brain injury hospitalization, along with a toll-free number direct to her for hope and encouragement and to connect with others who have experienced the same crisis with a loved one. Porter's organization provides approximately 1,200 totes per year through more than 26 Florida trauma centers and has provided more than 12,000 totes to date.

To help with Porter's efforts, she reached out to an organization that helped her son with his recovery.

"My son received all of his therapies from Brooks Rehabilitation and so I have wanted for

so long to offer support to the survivors while at the same time providing comfort information and hope for families new to the injury," Porter says.

Members of the Brooks Clubhouse, a day program dedicated to helping people return to a productive life after a brain injury, will begin combining and packaging all of the tote components so that they are ready to ship at a moment's notice to Trauma Centers.

"What better way than to have the survivors play a very special part of our program as they practice social, physical, cognitive and vocational skills to help them on their road to recovery?" Porter added.

Currently, 210,000 Floridians are living with a brain injury and 92,000 Floridians experience brain injury each year, according to the Brain Injury Association of Florida.

Mothers for TBI Hope, is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, whose mission is to function as a resource for the immediate family of those who have sustained a traumatic brain injury within the first weeks of hospitalization through the provision of tote bags filled with personal comfort items, useful tools, information, resources, comfort and hope as well as access to a support system. Please visit www.800tbihope.org/

JCPD

Continued from page 6

of the required CDD aquatics staff for hours used by the swim team during non-operating hours. All supervisors voted in favor of the annual agreements for recreation swim teams.

• A portion of the meeting consisted of staff reports to the Board of Supervisors, including notice there are 12,233 registered voters within the district.

• One item in the supervisor's requests part of the meeting included a lengthy discussion of the importance of performing internal financial audits. A vote was taken on whether or not to perform an audit. A motion was made by Supervisor Page and seconded by Supervisor Lansdale to conduct an internal audit with a certified public accountant. The motion was defeated with Supervisors Kannatt-Gapinski, Jacob and Klein voting no.

Please visit www.jcpd.org to read the meeting minutes in their entirety and to make note of the date of future meetings.

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Helping Hands update

By Contributing Writer Jackie Valyou



Helping Hands' adopted puppy, Adele, who is in training, but taking a break for a swim with one of her trainers.

Helping Hands of St. Johns County will meet on Friday, July 25 at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community Church Community Center on County Road 210 next to Cimarrone. This month's project will be Christmas card Christmas trees for the September 6 Craft Fair to be held at the Church Community Center. Members will assemble the trees and whatever is not sold at the craft fair will be donated to Community Hospice to be given to Peds families at Christmas.

In June, the group was able to donate several hundred towels and washcloths along with detergent and toiletries to Home Again St. Johns for the homeless at the drop in facility on County Road 207. The group also enjoyed a barbecue after all the hard work they have been doing both for craft fair and community garden. Celebration Food Bank has been the recipient of fresh vegetables and fruits over last three months and the garden is winding down. A young man working for his Eagle Scout badge will be enlarging the garden and providing permanent fencing so more vegetables can be planted.

Helping Hands members have been busy working on making quality, unique handmade items that will be available at the craft fair that will benefit Canines Companions for Independence. One hundred percent of the proceeds will be donated to them and they will be on hand that day for a meet and greet. This worthwhile organization provides service dogs to disabled and hearing impaired children, skilled companion for a wounded vet (not PTSD) and facility dogs who work with professionals in rehabilitation, hospital or health care setting. Gilmore, the dog that visited the group in May, is the Ronald McDonald House dog. Items available at craft fair, all made by Helping Hands members, include jewelry, pet items, purses, bath products, clothing, teen and team themed items, fairy gardens, birdhouses (garden art), linens, lots of holiday and

seasonal items, specialty gifts, darling baby items and even men's barbecue aprons. We have lots of shell pots, hairpieces, crosses and exceptional shell art. There is something for everyone. There will also be a collectibles table with Lenox, Hummels, Rozenthal and Waterford items. Refreshments will be available for sale and First Florida Credit Union staff will be on hand with their popcorn machine and free popcorn for all. Helping Hands would like to invite the community to come see all the beautiful merchandise they have for sale and to help make the dream of a disabled person come true.

Alex Fast, the young man from St. Augustine for whom Helping Hands had the garage sale to raise money for his liver transplant, is finally home after seven months in Pittsburgh. He is doing well after the transplant and his family is most grateful for all the support they received from the community.

Helping Hands is a volunteer organization that was founded in 2007 to foster friendship and fellowship and to do a small project for the community. It meets the last Friday of each month at Faith Community Church on County Road 210. Members come when they can and do what they can with what is donated. There are no dues, officers or stress. Membership is always open. For more information, please contact jacqphil@aol.com or check us out on Facebook under Helping Hands of St. Johns County.

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Cunningham Creek receives education grant

By Contributing Writer Marcy James, PTO

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox for Education® grant to Cunningham Creek Elementary for a Special Needs Library Enhancement and Garden Project. CCE is one of more than 600 schools across the United States to be awarded a Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant this year. CCE serves as a hub for students with exceptionalities for northern St. Johns County. Currently, 171 students are in the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Program. The school's librarian, Sarah Moukhlass, worked with the PTO in applying for the grant.

Moukhlass identified improvements indoors and outdoors to help the library better serve the ESE population. She recommended alternative seating options more accommodating to students with exceptionalities. Moukhlass selected seating that allows for a certain amount of movement. She cited studies demonstrating how seating designed for slight movement can allow for a release of energy while remaining in one's chair, thereby improving concentration among exceptional students, particularly those with Autism or ADHD.

She also proposed a Literary Garden, transforming an ordinary garden bed into a living expression of children's literature by featuring plants read about in their books. For example, the Literary Garden will have chrysanthemums from

the book *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes. Moukhlass has proposed a sensory section to the garden, allowing children to see, smell and touch stories. For example, children will be able to smell the fragrance of rosemary and feel the softness of lamb's ear.

Cunningham Creek's library serves a very diverse population with varying abilities. In order to better allow all children to experience the joy of literature, CCE is working to reach ESE students in diverse and special ways.

"It has been an honor to get to know our ESE population at Cunningham. Our students' unique needs and learning styles encourage me to look at literacy with a new set of eyes. I now contemplate how sensory activities can tie into the joys of reading. The act of touching, tasting and smelling are integral to so many of our students' learning experiences. I feel lucky to work with supportive principals, a strong



Sarah Moukhlass, CCE Library Media Specialist and media aide Deb Ives are excited about the grant!

PTO, a dedicated staff and committed business organizations, such as Lowe's, who see the value and can help turn a vision of a literary/sensory garden into a reality," said Moukhlass.

"The Lowe's Toolbox for Education program has benefited more than five million schoolchildren since its inception," said Maureen Ausura, chairman of the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. "Lowe's is committed to continuing to improve the educational environment for students across the country."

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Donald J. Levine, MD, is pleased to welcome Family Practice Physician **Jaime Kibler, DO**, to Baptist Primary Care Julington Creek. They offer you and your family a medical home, where you enjoy an ongoing relationship with your personal physician — someone you can talk to and trust. Someone who will see you the same day if there's an urgent need, and coordinate your care with an electronic medical record shared across Baptist Health's comprehensive network of providers. Convenient. Caring. Connected. That's changing health care for good.

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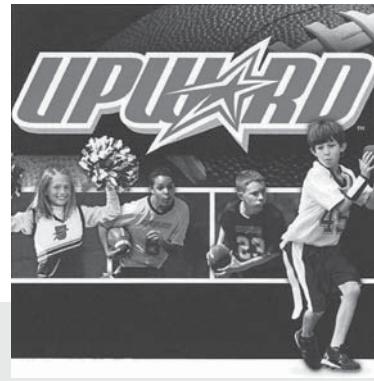
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Future Problem Solvers return as international finalists

By Contributing Writer Jeani Taliaferro



Wearing their loot after the Memento Exchange where students around the world shared items with each other are Lucas Sanders, Molly Beman, Adam Domingoes, Diksha Brahmbhatt, Shambhavi Khanna and Drashti Brahmbhatt

A team of Nease students recently returned as finalists from Iowa State University where over 2,400 students from Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and most states within the United States of America competed in the 2014 Future Problem Solving Program (FPSPI) International Conference (IC). The conference featured four days of competitive team and individual problem solving (written and action based), scenario writing (individual and group) and educational seminars.

"The Future is the Key" was Florida's theme for 2014 and this team, representing our entire state, especially appreci-

ates Sertoma Club and Beaver Toyota for financial support allowing them to register and travel to the event where they could say: "We're Here to Wow Ya!" Competitions like FPSPI allow academically talented students the opportunity to showcase their creative skills. Nease's Global Issues Future Problem Solving IC team consisted of four students: Diksha Brahmbhatt, Drashti Brahmbhatt, Molly Beman and Lucas Sanders. Shambhavi Khanna and Adam Domingoes took part in the Multi-affiliate Global Issues Competition where Domingoes' team, made of students from California, Kentucky, Texas and Florida, placed third overall in this alternate competition.

This year's international competition topic was space and NASA astronaut Gregory H.

Johnson, president and executive director for the Center for the Advance of Science in Space (CASIC) was the featured speaker. He has logged over 5,000 flight hours in more than 50 different aircraft and contributed to the assembly of the International Space Station (ISSO). He piloted two Space Shuttle missions and one of his crew members was a former FPS student. He was so impressed with the program that he stayed around after his presentation to meet, talk and work with many of the students.

Founded by creativity pioneer Dr. E. Paul Torrance, FPSPI stimulates critical and creative thinking skills and encourages students to develop a vision for the future while they develop skills of teamwork, communication, research, critical and creative thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. These skills are applied to situations that are futuristic but oriented to real life. The competitive aspects of FPS are fun but benefits include learning a process that can be used lifelong.

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Rotary Club

Continued from page 1

Rotary motto, "Service Above Self."

July 1 marked the start of a new Rotary year as the gavel was passed from Rick Stobe to Carol Higley for presidential leadership of the club. Higley is joined by new board members Michael Andreoni, vice president/president-elect; Lance Malcolm, president nominee/membership director; Jamie Mackey, secretary; Rick Stobe, treasurer; and Robert Morgan, Sergeant at Arms.

The Rotary Club of Bartram Trail typically meets weekly on Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek. For more information, visit www.bartramtrailrotary.org or contact President Carol Higley at c.higley@comcast.net.

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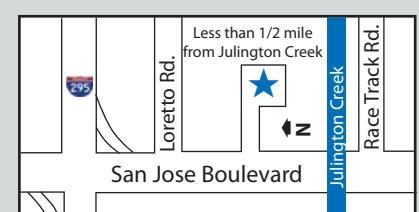
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Multi-specialty vision practice welcomes Dr. Jones



Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons welcomes Dr. P. Vernon Jones to their practice. Dr. Jones has been in private practice

and ophthalmology residency at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

"Dr. Jones brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to our practice and we are looking forward to his contributions," stated John Donovan, M.D., ophthalmologist with Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons.

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons is a comprehensive ophthalmology practice with dedicated and caring physicians who treat approximately 14,000 patients annually. They have been providing eye care to the North Florida region since 1977. Their main focus is the evaluation and treatment of eye disease and the overall advancement in the field of ophthalmology.

Be sure to see their ad in this issue of *The CreekLine*!

for over 25 years and recently decided to transition his solo practice to a larger, multi-specialty group. Dr. Jones officially joined Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons in May 2014 as a comprehensive ophthalmologist and will primarily be based in their Riverside and Orange Park practice locations.

Dr. Jones completed his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, and his general surgery residency

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The Florida Department of Transportation held a public workshop for the proposed County Road 210 at US Highway 1 interchange on June 25 at the St. Johns County Administration building. The proposed project will provide a new County Road 210 connection from the existing curve on County Road 210 west of US Highway 1 to the tie-in at County Road 210/Palm Valley Road east of US Highway 1 at Nocatee. Improvements will also include the construction of a two-lane bridge over the FEC Railroad and US Highway 1, signalized intersections, drainage/stormwater ponds and the construction of an Old Dixie Highway Connector.

Summer fun at Alpine Groves Park

By Contributing Writer Jennifer Yarbrough, Friends of Alpine Park

Looking for some summer fun in a natural setting with a little Old-Florida charm mixed in? Then add Alpine Groves Park to your "To-Do" list! Alpine Groves Park is located at 2030 State Road 13 in Switzerland. It is owned and maintained by St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department and is 54.5 acres located

on a beautiful bluff overlooking the St. Johns River.

At the front of the park you will find an old barn, dinner bell, Butterfly Garden and shaded children's playground with orange grove themed play equipment hearkening back to the park's days as an orange grove. Meander down the shaded, paved foot trail towards the river or drive your vehicle down the road to the river area parking lot and get set to explore. You will enjoy beautiful views of the St. Johns River from a magnificent bluff. Enjoy the view from the covered dock or while swinging on lovely double swings placed along the river. Stroll the Ruth Harris Bennett Butterfly Garden and enjoy Florida Native and Heritage plant that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

The crowning historical jewels of the park are the 1890s farmhouse, fruit packing shed and curio building; wander around them and peek into the past. The farmhouse was re-

cently decorated for the Fourth of July by the Friends of Alpine Park and provided the backdrop for many patriotic pictures.

The exterior of the farmhouse and fruit packing shed were previously stabilized by St. Johns County, but the interiors have yet to be restored. The Friends of Alpine Park are currently raising the funds necessary to restore the interior of the farmhouse back to its 1890s state; the group is looking for new members interested in helping this worthwhile cause. They are also looking for members with a love of nature who would like to maintain the Ruth Harris Bennett Butterfly Garden and the serene, natural habitat of the park and those interested in decorating the exterior of the farmhouse in seasonal decorations five times a year.

If this interests you, then they would love your help! Please email friendsofalpinepark@gmail.com or "Friend" them on Facebook, "Friends of Alpine Park."



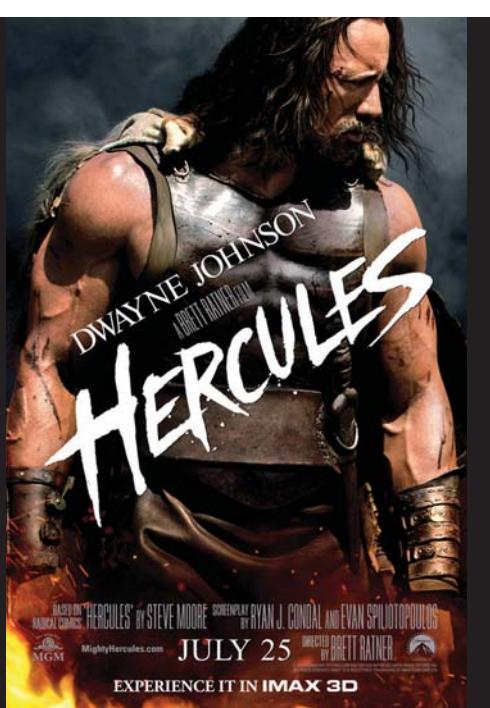
Friends of Alpine Park members and their families enjoy the farmhouse newly decorated for the patriotic holidays of Flag Day and Independence Day.



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There were no words to describe six-year-old Mateo's expression when he was given a talking Minion, a \$2,000 check for an Orlando vacation and bags of goodies at Cunningham Creek Elementary's Dreams Come True celebration hosted by Heidi Weaver's and Kurt Reese's fifth grade classes. The crowning moment for Mateo happened when Dana Kelly's first grade class made him "King of the Day" and danced around him while singing "Gold." Sherry Galbraith's fourth grade class also joined in the festive celebration which was the culmination of a year's worth of fund-raising through a school-wide project led by CCE's gifted/blended classes.

Day" and danced around him while singing "Gold." Sherry Galbraith's fourth grade class also joined in the festive celebration which was the culmination of a year's worth of fund-raising through a school-wide project led by CCE's gifted/blended classes.

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Visiting India and the Taj Mahal

By Contributing Travel Writer Debi Lander, www.bylandersea.com

I sat in utter amazement, nestled in the back seat while my driver, a Sikh wearing a turban, somehow maneuvered the car through a frenzied traffic jam of epic proportions. Seven jumbled lanes of misaligned vehicles squished within three officially marked lines. As far as I could see, no rules of the road existed. A cacophony of honking and beeping horns seemed to simply announce, "I'm here." Bicycles, rickshaws, motorcycles, hundreds of tiny Tok-Tok three-wheeled cars (occasionally overstuffed with people like clown cars at the circus) plus regular size vehicles, buses and trucks and ox carts vied for space. Every once in a while a stray cow would wander in. I'd been warned the traffic in Delhi is insane—multiply that times 10. Its sheer madness but for some reason I didn't feel anxious.

While my itinerary called for adventures in the southern part of the country, my tour of this distant land would absolutely have to include India's most famous landmark: the Taj Mahal. Taj Mahal means "Crown Palace" and it is in fact the most well preserved and architecturally beautiful tomb in the world.

To understand the building you must know the background story. The Taj Mahal was built by the fifth Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, in 1631 in memory of his third but the most favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Shah Jahan was utterly devoted to Mumtaz Mahal, who was his constant companion and trusted confidante.

She died after giving birth to their 13th child while accompanying him on a campaign. Her death so crushed the emperor that all his hair and beard were said to have grown snow white in a few months.

I would tour at sunrise to avoid crowds and had expected the pre-dawn streets to be quiet, but I was totally wrong. In fact, I would quickly learn almost all my preconceived ideas about India were wrong. Residents in India arise very early. The park near the entrance to the UNESCO World Heritage site was bustling like an American high school at dismissal hour, except daylight was barely breaking.

First came a red brick building, the gateway to the Taj. Here you nab the initial glimmer of the majestic marble dome through a grand arched doorway. Whoa—the hair on my arms rose in excitement. The sun's rays, just beginning

to project from the East, cast an array of pale pinkish hues. And me... literally tickled pink to be there.

I needed to simply stand still and contemplate the renowned building with its indefinable beauty. No high definition photos or videos do justice. Seeing this structure in person becomes a moment of awe. Graceful and delicate, clean and pure, literally shimmering like a fiery diamond ring—the Taj Mahal is a true wonder of the world.

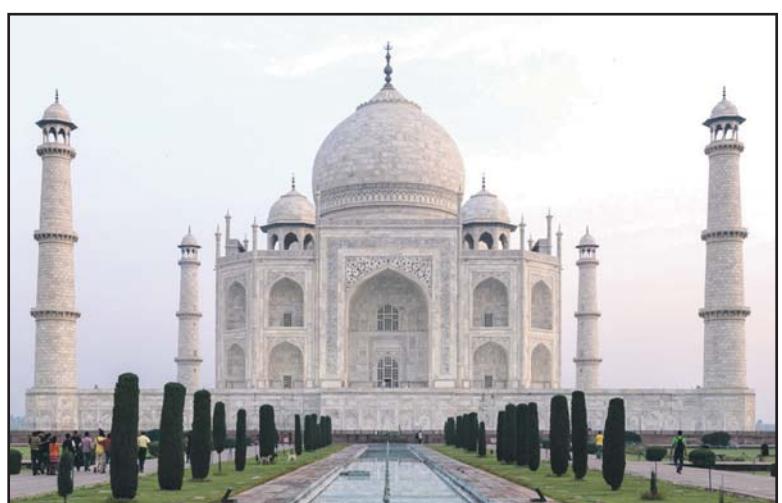
Construction began in 1631 and was completed in 1648. About 20,000 workers were recruited: sculptors from Bukhara, calligraphers from Syria and Persia, inlayers from southern India, stone cutters from Baluchistan, a specialist in building turrets, another who carved only marble flowers. The outlying buildings and gardens were finished five years later.

I was pleased to see preservation a concern. Everybody must place cloth booties over their shoes before climbing the stairs and walking on the marble terrace. The detailed inlay work beckons closer observation and nearing it, I could discern exquisite detail. Marble lattice screens cut in oriental designs enclose the tombs. The actual graves lie below in the basement, undisturbed in quiet environs. The play of the sun's filtering rays reflecting off the river and through the lattice work creates a mood of solemn respect.

After leaving the interior, I walked toward the river and gazed across where the merest foundation for the Black Taj remains. Shah Jahan intended to build a replica in black marble opposite the current monument; however, a war with his sons interrupted his plan. The sons placed him under house arrest as they were opposed to his lavish spending for another shrine. As you glance further upriver, you see the red sandstone fort of Agra—the location where the father was imprisoned.

I strolled through the gardens and was very glad that I had come at dawn. Within a few hours tourists had mushroomed like well watered weeds, pushing forward and disrupting the serenity.

Many photographs of this site show its varying moods from dawn to dusk. My guide told me a full moon gives the Taj a golden, sensuous appeal and that it shines like a pearl. All I can say is see it for yourself. The romanticism and sheer majesty of the structure is undeniably real.





Kendall Gracie, daughter of Mike and Rhonda Gracie and a rising eighth grader at Fruit Cove Middle School, has been named as a 2014 Brine National High School All-American and has been selected to represent Florida at the 2014 Brine National Lacrosse Classic to be held in Boyds, Maryland June 30 through July 3, 2014. The Brine National Lacrosse Classic brings the top-ranked high school lacrosse players in the country to one venue, where regional teams will compete to become the 2014 National Champion. Congratulations, Kendall!

A COMPLAINT FILED AFTER COMMISSIONER BENNETT USED HER OFFICIAL AUTHORITY TO INFLUENCE THE VOTE

As a candidate, one works on getting his/her message out and expects the opponent(s) to campaign against you. However, on June 4th, I was met with a surprise from current County Commissioner Rachael Bennett, who is not up for re-election. (I am running against Commissioner Ron Sanchez.) She injected herself into my campaign – using her title and County email to influence residents' votes, which I believe violated Florida Statute 104.

Commissioner Rachael Bennett sent out hundreds of emails to residents attacking my credibility and made statements like "... when it comes time to vote, please remember...." Even though there were many slurs made on my integrity, the Complaint is due to use of Bennett's title and county email in interfering with an election.

Election Laws are there for a reason – to keep elections fair. F.S. 104.31 clearly states that no county official can use his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or a nomination of office or coercing or influencing another person's vote or affecting the result thereof. Nor can they use the county (taxpayer's) email server in doing so.

Even though I was on the receiving end of this, I still gave Bennett an opportunity to simply fix it. On June 4th, I emailed the County Commissioners, County Administrator, and County Attorney, requesting retraction of these statements to those residents Bennett had emailed and to publish in the local newspapers. Otherwise, I would hold a press conference and file a Complaint. Despite the seriousness of this issue, no formal response was received.

Since Bennett decided to bring this to my front door, I had only two options on how to respond. Neither option is what a candidate wants to face when trying to focus energy on their campaign. Since this happened to me, I could either "ignore it" and continue to allow Bennett to misuse her authority to influence others' votes – or I could stand up and say "stop."

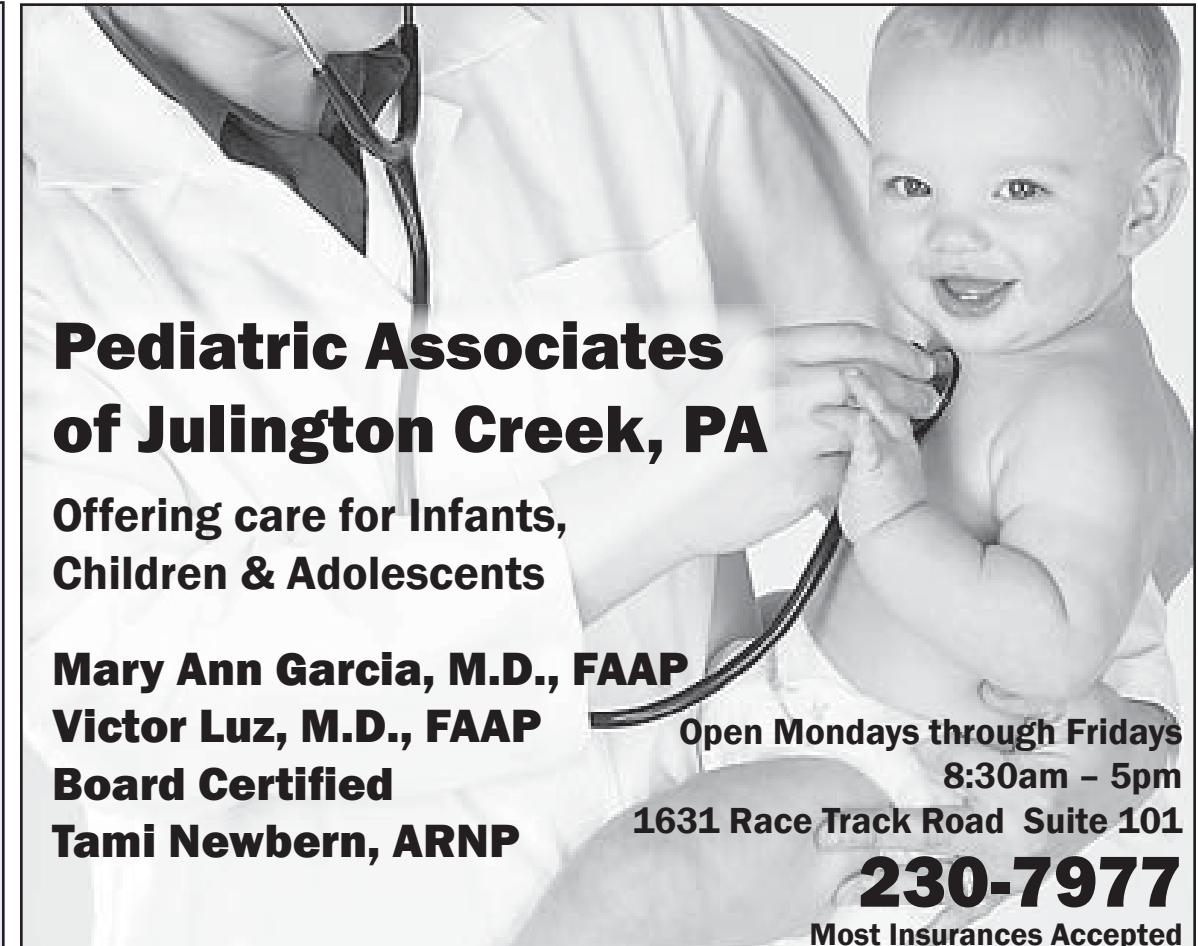
Every candidate sees him/herself as the best one for the position. My teammates and I simply want to run our campaign and get our message out. So, now we have stood up to this and are moving on. We sincerely hope this kind of activity by other sitting Commissioners does not happen to any other candidate.

For more information on Kim J. Kendall's campaign, visit www.VoteKimKendall.com



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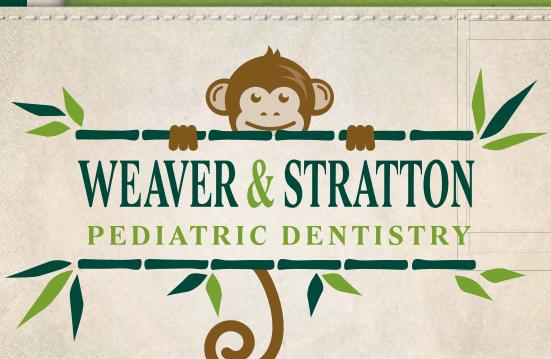
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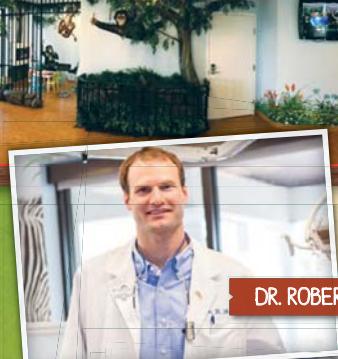
Over 30 local nonprofits will receive United Way funding in 2014-2015. Representatives of those agencies met recently at Ring Power. In each of the organization's 57 years of existence, United Way of St. Johns County has run a county-wide campaign raising funds to address community need. Focused on the building blocks that lead to a good quality of life—education, health and income—United Way recognizes that we all gain when children are successful in school when families are financially stable and when people are healthy. To give, to advocate or to volunteer with the United Way, please visit www.unitedway-sjc.org or call 829-9721

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Home Again's Drop-In Center finally opens



Nancy O'Byrne, Drop-In Center coordinator; David Hoak Home Again executive director; Michael Biance, Home Again board member; and Jay Hays, Team Depot coordinator at the ribbon cutting.

After nearly a year of planning, designing, fundraising and coordinating construction activities, Home Again St. Johns' Drop-In Center has recently opened. A "soft" opening was held June 2 with a more formal Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting held on Saturday, June 28 at the Home Again office, located at 1850 State Road 207 in St. Augustine.

The Drop-In Center was a conceptual idea of Home Again board member Michael Biance over year ago when he sketched

out the plans for an outdoor shower and laundry facility on a piece of notepaper. Shortly thereafter, Diane Machaby, Home Again St. Johns' director of development, contacted the local Home Depot store about partnering on the project. Machaby worked alongside Team Depot Captain Jay Hays to submit a grant to the Home Depot Foundation. Within a few weeks, approval was received that they would provide \$9000 in gift cards to be used to purchase materials

to build the Drop-In Center. Store employees would also help build the structure.

After a few revisions to the initial plan, the facility grew to include two outdoor showers and a bathroom that are ADA handicap-accessible and a washer/dryer area. Besides Home Depot employees, other hardworking volunteers that helped make the center a reality included employees of Northrop Grumman, Trinity Episcopal's Ramp Squad and numerous community volunteers.

"This project would not have been possible if it were not for our board's vision, the Home Depot Foundation contributing the funds for the materials and the dedicated volunteers that pitched in to help build the Drop-In Center," said David Hoak, executive director of Home Again St. Johns. "It was definitely a community effort."

The Drop-In Center will be open one day a week to start with and will grow into multiple days as demand increases. To learn more about Home Again St. Johns and supporting their efforts, please visit www.homeagainstjohns.org or call Diane Machaby, Director of Development at 881-1167.

Swiss Point student experiences Greece and Italy

By Contributing Writer Julia Goricki, Student, Switzerland Point Middle School



was Santorini. Santorini was filled with blue and white buildings that overlooked the sea. We took a guided tour through that island and sang in the center of an amphitheater area and we loved the reactions of the Greeks when we sang in their native language.

We then went to Mykonos and saw a lot of the private churches. Did you know that there is only one Roman Catholic Church on that island? All the rest were Greek Orthodox. Everyone was so nice to us and welcomed us with warm smiles.

Olympia was nothing like I've ever seen before. The ruins of where the ancient Greek Olympics were held were amazing. The

monuments were pretty well preserved for being 2000 years old and the tour guide did a great job of informing us of what we were looking at.

When we arrived at Venice, we sang at mass at St. Mark's Basilica and we got to walk around a little bit and experience the Italian culture.

Rome was beautiful. We had the chance to tour the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica. St. Peter's Basilica was especially interesting; the architecture was pretty and the mosaics and statues were so cool. We saw the Pieta by

The author had time for some sightseeing on the Jacksonville Children's Chorus summer tour

This summer the Jacksonville Children's Chorus had the exciting opportunity to perform on tour in Greece and Italy. We spent seven days on a cruise and three days bus touring in Italy. We visited Corfu, Santorini, Mykonos, Olympia, Venice and Rome.

In Corfu we walked around for a little bit before we went to our first performance of the tour. It was a quaint island with beautiful scenery and lovely people. We sang with the Corfu Children's Chorus and they were amazing!

Our next stop on the cruise

was Santorini. Santorini was filled with blue and white buildings that overlooked the sea. We took a guided tour through that island and sang in the center of an amphitheater area and we loved the reactions of the Greeks when we sang in their native language.

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LPA: Looking back and looking ahead

By Contributing Writer Diana Sarama

Looking back, the 2013-2014 school year was a success for the Liberty Pines Academy (LPA) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The PTO each year supports the staff and students with various activities and fundraisers.

Some of this past school year's activities included the Boosterthon, the Liberty Parade, Family Fun Night, the LPA Golf Tournament and the Night of the Arts. Hopefully, each family had a chance to have some fun and make some good memories at one or more of the PTO sponsored events.

The support received from the different fundraisers and business partners was more than had been anticipated when the initial budgets were made during the 2013 summer. This year the funds raised will go towards purchasing 30 new computers at LPA for the 2014-2015 school year.

Technology will always be a need to be met each year be-

cause it is constantly changing. Also, the computers get a lot of use when there are almost 1,400 students attending LPA. Since LPA is not a new school or a Title I school, then LPA has to find ways to fund these technology needs. The funds received through the PTO are very much appreciated.

Looking ahead, the 2014-

2015 school year will be here before we know it. The new PTO board is already making plans for another great year. There is always a lot of work behind the scenes for each activity and everyone's help is much appreciated.

Thanks to all who have supported LPA and the PTO! Have a fun and safe summer!



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Fairy Tale Ball at Hickory Creek Elementary

By Contributing Writer Sommer Dolce



The first graders at Hickory Creek Elementary School recently held their annual Fairy Tale Ball. Students dressed up as their favorite characters from their favorite fairy tale. They enjoyed an all-day affair of activities that celebrated the end of their study about fairy tales.

Many of the girls were dressed as beautiful princesses. The boys came dressed to impress as characters such as Prince Charming, Robin Hood and other beloved characters

from their favorite fairy tale books. Dr. Paul Goricki, the principal at Hickory Creek, served as the Royal Reader. He sat in his royal chair and read his favorite fairy tale, *Rapunzel*, to the first graders. They did special crafts in their classrooms and enjoyed a showing of the Paper Bag Princess. The culminating event of the day was the ball.

The first grade house was transformed into a beautiful ballroom with glittering lights. The students were paired up and were able to show off their dancing skills. Even the teachers joined in the dancing fun! For many of the students, this was their first opportunity with ballroom dancing. Teachers enjoyed watching their students practice their dance skills with their partners.

Open house celebrates opening of free standing ER



Memorial Hospital is now serving patients at the Memorial Emergency Center - Atlantic. The cover over the Emergency sign was taken down to signify the full-service emergency room is officially open to patients.

"This is an exciting day for Memorial Hospital as we bring emergency care closer to home for the adults and children who live in this fast-growing area," said Memorial Hospital President and CEO Jim O'Loughlin. "We are honored to bring the same high-level of care that we offer in our main emergency room to the families who call this neighborhood home."

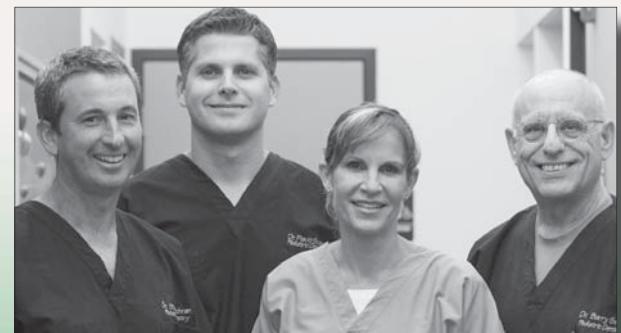
The Memorial Emergency Center - Atlantic is Memorial Hospital's second free-standing ER. In October of 2012 Memorial opened its first free standing emergency center, the Memorial Emergency Center - Julington Creek. Since opening, the Julington Creek location has seen thousands of patients.

"Teaching the students to dance with a partner is a lot of fun," said Laura Eads, first grade teacher at Hickory Creek. "Although reading the different versions of the fairy tales, comparing them and creating new twists to the tales are my favorite part of this unit."

The fairy tale unit is not only exciting for the students, but also fun for the teachers. It offers many learning opportunities for first graders. By studying the story structure of fairy tales, it allows students to grasp the beginning, middle and end format of a story. With this foundation, students can refer back to their prior knowledge when they are composing their own stories. There are also great connections that can be made across the curriculum with math, science and social studies.

Barry P. Setzer, D.D.S.
Stephen D. Cochran, D.M.D.
Karen A. Hubbard, D.D.S.
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"When it comes to emergencies, every second counts," said Emergency Services Administrator Amy Riley, RN. "Our new, state-of-the-art emergency room offers adults and children easy access to care in a convenient setting with a highly trained, compassionate staff ready to serve adults and children."

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UNF student and JCP resident wins national film competition



Trevor Walsh with his award for "The Timekeeper."

Trevor Walsh, a student at UNF and graduate of Bishop John J. Snyder High School (2011), won a prestigious student film competition in Hollywood for his film "The Timekeeper." Approximately 120 colleges/universities participate in the annual Campus MovieFest (the world's largest student

film festival) which focuses on short films. Planning time is unlimited, but the movie must be shot within a specific one-week period and the movie must not exceed five minutes in duration.

At UNF, there were 68 entries. "The Timekeeper" won "Best Drama," "Best Actor" (Brian Shields) and received a special award, rarely given at universities, a "Silver Tripod Award" for cinematography. Walsh's movie and another movie from UNF (Salts) won all the awards and they both advanced to Hollywood to be judged against the winners from other universities. Walsh then learned he was nominated for the "Golden Tripod Award" for cinematography.

Walsh and his dad, Brian Walsh, flew to Hollywood to attend MovieFest where 1,000 delegates attended workshops with presenters such as Grant Heslov (Academy Award winner for Argo). On June 19, the winning movies from the various universities ran simultaneously in three theaters at Universal City Walk. They showed six movies, then question and answer sessions were held featuring the representatives who were present. Walsh was asked about his equipment, lighting used and theme development.

Sunday's final awards were presented at the Globe Theater with presenters such as Carl Reiner and Kathy Bates. Missi Pyle read the nominations and Walsh's competition was from San Francisco State University, San Diego State, South Carolina and Georgia Tech. Then came the announcement: The Golden Tripod Award winner for cinematography was "The Timekeeper." Assisting Walsh in the production of "The Timekeeper" was his friend David Oliveros.



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Heritage Landing announces community events

Following are some of the events that Heritage Landing has planned for its residents for July and August:

For more information about the events below, please call 940-6095 or email us at campheritage@heritagelanding.comcastbiz.net. Unless otherwise noted, these events are for Heritage Landing residents and their guests.

Family Movie Night is on August 2 at dusk. Closed Caption upon request.

The St. Johns County Public Library Bookmobile will come to the Amenity Center the first and third Wednesday of the month with a new time: from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For

more information, please visit their website at sjcpls.org.

Toddler and Preschool Story Time: Join the Children's Librarian at the amenity center the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. for newborns to three-year-olds and 10:30 a.m. for three- to five-year-olds. For more information, please visit their website at sjcpls.org.

The Adult Book Club meets the third Thursday each month from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. This is a free program sponsored by the St. Johns County Public Library.

Student Band Rehearsal is held on Sunday nights from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. All Heritage Landing resident band students are welcome. The Student Band is led by resident Mr. Iaropli. Please call 940-1119 for more information.

The Heritage Landing Business Networking Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Heritage Landing business owners or representatives, come introduce your business to fellow residents. The meeting is free and a \$5 fee gets your business card published in this month's newsletter.

The Heritage Landing CDD Board of Supervisors meeting will be Thursday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m. For more information about the CDD please visit heritagelandingcdd.org.

Swim lessons for kids age two and up are available through August 1. Swim lessons last for two weeks and consist of eight, half-hour sessions. Classes are limited. Sign up today.

Cell Phones for Soldiers: Please remember to donate your old cell phones to Cell Phones for Soldiers. Bring your donations to the amenity center office during regular business hours.

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Michael T. McClure DMD, MAGD, ABGD
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degree in Physiology. He then entered the United States Navy where he served for seven years as a Naval Aviator, flying P-3's. Dr. McClure attended Dental School at the University of Florida where he again graduated Summa Cum Laude in May of 2000. Following graduation, he served 5 more years in the U.S. Navy as a Dental Officer, making deployments twice to the desert and once to Djibouti, Africa. In 2005 Dr. McClure left the Navy, and has been practicing in Orange Park, FL ever since. In 2007 Dr. McClure was awarded a prestigious Fellowship in the Academy of General

Dentistry. Most recently, after years of hard work, and over 2000 hours of Continuing Education, he was awarded the Mastership in the Academy of General Dentistry at the 2012 Annual Meeting. In 2012 Dr. McClure passed the written section for Board Certification in General Dentistry. In 2013 after two extensive days of more written and oral board testing, Dr. McClure was awarded Board Certification from the American Board of General Dentistry. Less than 700 Dentist worldwide have ever achieved this designation. Dr. McClure has also been awarded Mastership by the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology's, College of Sedation in Dentistry. Congratulations to Dr. McClure for being the only practicing Dentist in the State of Florida to have been awarded all three honors.

In addition to the Academy of General Dentistry, Dr. McClure is a member of good standing in the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI); Implant Prosthetic Section of the ICOI; American Academy of Implant Dentistry; Florida Academy of General Dentistry; Florida Dental Society of Anesthesiology;



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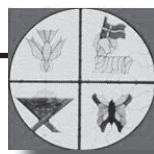


Do you have faith news you would like included in The CreekLine? Then contact Martie Thompson at: editor@thecreekline.com or 886-4919.

Back by popular demand, the **Presbyterian Women at Geneva Presbyterian Church** are planning a new and exciting auction along with delicious, appetizers and dessert for grazing and live music. There will be a live auction and a "Mystery Auction" where you will have an opportunity to bid on theater tickets, a Disney Park Hopper Pass, a magnificent carved wooden fish by Pastor Joe, a quilt made by our own Barb Enos and other great selections. There will also be mystery boxes to bid on. Mark your calendar now: on Saturday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. the fun begins! Tickets are \$20 per person. All proceeds will support the PW mission projects which include the Betty Griffin House, Family Integrity Program, Angel Tree project and Food 4 Kids among others. For further information, please call the church at 287-4865.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, located at 1221 State Road 13, is excited to announce the addition of a new program. On Tuesday mornings, we are now offering Stories and Smiles, storytime and creative move-

ment for young children and their caregivers. Children from birth to age three should attend between 9:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. and three to five year olds should attend between 10:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. This is free to all and all are welcome! Please invite your family members, friends and neighbors! For additional information, please contact the church at 287-2807.



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Summer Reading Event: Ice Cream Party

Thurs., July 31 • 2 PM
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You've been reading all summer... now it's time to celebrate. Join us at the branch for an ice cream party -- we'll do the scooping, you add your toppings. And, as always, keep on reading. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Bartram Trail Branch Library.

Please Note:

St. Johns County Bookmobile is no longer stopping at the Palencia Shopping Plaza.

The Bookmobile continues to be parked in front of Palencia Elementary School on the following Wednesdays from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM: **July 16 and August 6**. These stops are open to the general public. Palencia Elementary School is located at 355 Palencia Village Drive.

Please look for future announcements about a new Palencia stop. For further questions, please call 827-6944 or email us at libbe@sjcfl.us.

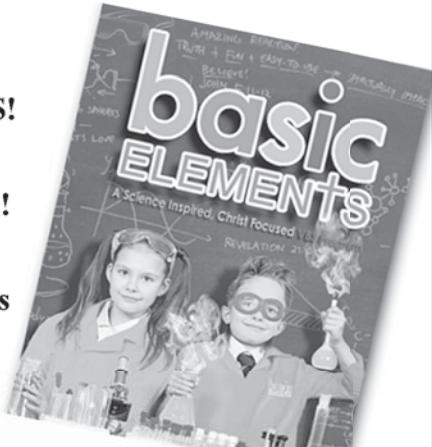
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Mark your calendars for the SAYS charity golf tournament

The 19th annual St. Augustine Youth Services Charity Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, September 22, 2014 at Marsh Creek Country Club. Ocean Grove RV SuperCenter is the title sponsor of the tournament. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the shotgun start goes off at 9:00 a.m. There will be an awards lunch immediately after.

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS), a therapeutic group home for abused and neglected children, is celebrating 25 years of service. SAYS employs a staff of caring professionals who are specially trained to deal with problems unique to children from abusive homes. The SAYS facility provides the homelike environment so important for the healthy development of these special children.

The tournament proceeds

will help support the SAYS Hutson Family Campus to continue to provide a safe, stable home for the boys in which to love, learn, grow and heal both physically and emotionally.

For more information to become a sponsor or to play in the tournament, contact Robin Burchfield, director of development, at 829-1770 or robinb@sayskids.org. Registration is available online at www.say-skids.org/golf.

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Groves appointed to lead Hickory Creek

Bethany Groves, assistant principal at R.J. Murray Middle School (MMS), has been selected by Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner to be the principal of Hickory Creek Elementary School (HCES). Her nomination was presented to the St. Johns

County School Board during its July 8 meeting. She will replace Dr. Paul Goricki who was recently named as principal of John A. Crookshank Elementary (CES).

Groves began her career in 1994 as an elementary teacher in Kentucky. She continued her love of teaching for eight years at Southwest Elementary in Indiana. In 2006, Groves moved to St. Johns County where she taught fifth grade at Julington Creek Elementary School (JCES). She then became an administrator serving as an assistant principal for the past seven years at CES, HCES and MMS, respectively.

As a teacher, Groves earned the Golden Apple Achievement Award for the Southern United States for excellence in teaching and her academic team in Kentucky earned the state championship title in 1998. While at Southwest Elementary, Groves was a lead mathematics teacher for the state of Indiana presenting best practices to teachers, serving as a speaker at academic conferences and as a member of the curriculum design team. In addition, while teaching at JCES, her math team placed third in Florida and sixth in their division in the United States.

Groves has high expectations for her students and fac-



Bethany Groves. Photo by Leonard's Studios.

ulty and is committed to rigorous standards for all students within an atmosphere in which students are valued, supported and engaged.

"Bethany Groves is an outstanding choice to replace Dr. Goricki at Hickory Creek," said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner. "She is a skilled instructional leader who has experience in the community. I have a great deal of confidence in Bethany Groves and I know she will continue the excellence that has been established at Hickory Creek."

Groves holds a bachelor's degree from Ohio University, a master's degree from Northern Kentucky University and Educational Leadership Certification from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

"I could not be more thrilled to have this opportunity to return home to Hickory Creek," said Groves. "Dr. Goricki has laid an amazing foundation of excellence. To work with the staff, parents and community there to build on this foundation is a great honor for which I am humbled, incredibly grateful and very excited."

LUNAR PHASES

Full: July 12

Last Quarter: July 19

New: July 26

First Quarter: August 4



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**NEW
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Troop 280 has a new Eagle

By Contributing Writer Lisa Leavins



casion as well as participate in his ceremony.

After moving to Florida in 2010, Sorensen joined Troop 280 where he has earned a proficiency in outdoor skills, leadership and scout craft. He was elected to the Order of the Arrow in September of 2012 and remains active in the Order. Earning 22 Merit Badges and serving in leadership for the troop as the senior patrol leader, Sorensen began the process of planning and implementing his Eagle Scout project, with an impressive presentation to the committee. His project was to re-build the sign for our local St. Johns County Library at Davis Pond Road/State Road 13. He planned, raised funds for and implemented the project with the help of others.

Sorensen is the son of Per and Heidi Sorensen of St. Johns, Florida and a student at Creekside High School. After completing his Eagle, he continues to work with the troop and earn Eagle Palms. We congratulate Erik for all of the hard work he has vested in himself and the troop and wish him well in all endeavors.

Erik Sorensen of Troop 280 was presented the Eagle Scout Award on May 3, 2014 during a Court of Honor ceremony at River of Life United Methodist Church with family, friends and fellow scouts in attendance. He began his years in scouting back in 2006, where he began as a Cub Scout with Troop 250 in Fort Mill, South Carolina. He attained his Arrow of Light award prior to crossing over to Boy Scout Troop 250, where he progressed to the rank of First Class. Sorensen was pleased to have a contingent of his former South Carolina troop travel to Florida to honor him on this oc-



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He is a licensed Realtor® and is currently attending Jacksonville University for business management.

"Abraham has a proven history of leadership and dedication," explained Ed Forman, president, Watson Realty Corp. "He shares the company values and will be an excellent resource."

Blocker, a proud husband and father of three, is actively involved in his church and continues to serve in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He enjoys exploring northeast Florida with his family.

Watson Realty Corp. is pleased to announce the addition of Abraham Blocker as assistant to the president, Ed Forman. Blocker was recently honorably discharged from active duty in the United States Marine Corps, where he served for 10 years. He most recently served as a recruiter in Jacksonville Beach, where he received multiple awards and was recognized as rookie recruiter of the year in 2013. Blocker has been deployed

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St. Johns County Medical Alliance announces 2014 Scholars

The St. Johns County Medical Alliance recently awarded five new academic scholarships to St. Johns County high school graduates pursuing their education in a medical related field of study. Two former scholarship recipients also received funds for continuation of their studies. This year, a total of \$3,500 in scholarships was awarded.

Recipients include Kelli Her-

rin, a graduate of Nease High School. She plans to major in nursing and will attend the University of Miami. Jessica Potts, a Bartram Trail High School graduate, plans to major in physical therapy and will attend High Point University in North Carolina. Maggie Borngesser, a graduate of Bartram Trail High School, plans to major in pre-med and will attend the United States Air Force Academy. Matthew Guthrie, a graduate of Creekside High School, plans to major in biology/pre-med and will attend the University of Florida. Mimi Haley, a graduate of Ponte Vedra High School, plans to major in bio-medical science and will attend the University of Central Florida. Danielle Marchanko and Hunter Green, former award winners, will receive funding for continuation of their studies.

Every year, the St. Johns County Medical Alliance, in conjunction with the St. Johns County Medical Society, offers academic scholarships to graduating St. Johns County high school seniors pursuing an education in pre-medicine, nursing or allied health. Students who

have received an award may reapply each year. Scholarship applicants are evaluated on academic ability, school involvement, financial need and community service.

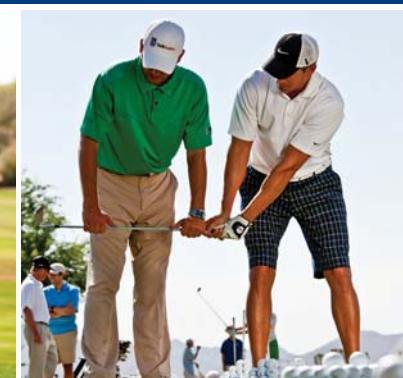
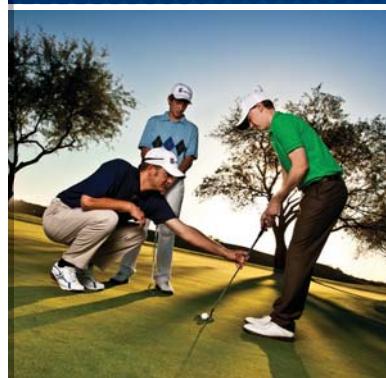
The St. Johns County Medical Alliance is comprised of spouses of St. Johns County physicians. Its purpose is to promote health education, identify and address health-care needs and issues, participate in health-related legislation and provide college scholarships to St. Johns County students. For more information about the Medical Alliance, go to www.sjcma.blogspot.com.

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September 11-20: Canadian Rockies & More – Victorian Victoria, BC, Butchart Gardens, Drive across the Rockies, 3 Nights in Banff, Ice Fields Parkway, Snow Coach Ride, Moraine Lake, Lake Louise, Alpine Banff, Special Luncheons and Banff Springs Hotel & Lake Louise, Cascade Mountain Loop, Leavenworth, Seattle...

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Nease IB juniors volunteer at Habitat for Humanity

Each year Nease International Baccalaureate (IB) students volunteer hundreds of service hours in support of various causes. This year 39 IB juniors volunteered at Habitat for Humanity in St. Augustine. Student team leaders Erin Wadham, Jessica Koros, Ben Koros, Daniel Schwartz and Justin Glinka helped to organize this most worthwhile effort.

During the course of three weekends, teams of students with hammers and paint brushes in hand came ready to help. Working together with the new home owners, students not only installed siding, but also painted the interior of two dwellings. Team leader Schwartz said that he found the experience to be "interesting and enjoyable, demonstrating

how people can take a hands on approach to help make a difference." In all, a total of 351 service hours were earned by Nease IB juniors for their humanitarian efforts.

Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County builds homes, communities and hope for those in need. Since 1994, they have provided a safe, decent home to over 100 hard working families. Globally, Habitat for Humanity is present in all 50 states and more than 90 countries worldwide. To date more than 800,000 houses have been built or repaired serving more than four million people worldwide. Their mission is "elimination of poverty and homelessness from the world to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action."



Visit our website: www.TheCreekLine.com

The "Iceman" becomes an Eagle

By Contributing Writer Lisa Leavins

On April 19, 2014 Austyn "Iceman" Blizzard earned Scouting's highest honor, the Eagle Award. The family hosted an Eagle ceremony at the JCP Recreation Center with family, friends and fellow scouts in attendance. Blizzard began scouting as a cub scout in 2005, progressing to Boy Scouts with Troop 280 in spring of 2009 as one of the original five members of that founding year.

During his time with Troop 280, Blizzard has served in leadership roles such as scribe, troop guide, patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader as well as senior patrol leader. He was also elected to the Order of the Arrow in 2010 and the OA Brotherhood in 2011. He has

enjoyed participating in high adventure activities over the years with the troop as well as teaching younger scouts the skills needed for advancement.

For his Eagle project, Blizzard planned and implemented the construction of a 179-foot long, five-foot wide, ADA regulation path connecting the school patio at Cunningham Creek Elementary School to the newly constructed track. After many road blocks that could have ground this project to a halt, some of which included weather hovering in the upper 20s with 15 mph winds during the construction, the project was completed successfully in time to celebrate the opening of the track with the school's annual Spring Fling celebration.



Blizzard is the son of John and Marsha Blizzard of the JCP community and is currently a student at Creekside High School. We celebrate Austyn and his accomplishments over the years and wish him well in all future endeavors.

Volunteers needed for ElderSource's SHINE program



The three-day training and orientation, scheduled for July 23 through July 25, will take place at the offices of ElderSource, located at 10688 Old St. Augustine Road in Mandarin. Interested volunteers must be pre-registered by July 13 in order to participate.

SHINE Volunteers

will receive basic training on Medicare, Medicare Part D (prescription drug program), Medicare Supplement Insurance and Medicaid and in turn, serve as counselors to their peers on how to understand and capitalize on these insurance benefits. Computer experience is helpful, but not necessary, to participate in the training. Volunteers will be served lunch and reimbursed for mileage at a rate of \$.445 per mile.

Upon completion of the training, volunteers will have

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Ester Kosik, a Level 5 rhythmic gymnast from St. Johns, proudly represented World Rhythms at the nation's biggest international competition, the Spring Fling, in Columbus, Ohio. Kosik won first place All Around in her age group, bringing home gold for Floor and Rope and silver for Hoop and Ball. She also received a trophy for finishing second place overall from 62 gymnasts at her level. Congratulations to Ester and her coaches, Mila Harty, Lauren Best and Stan Picus.



Kids Helping Kids raised more than \$55,000 for Dreams Come True

Dreams Come True is proud to announce more than 20 schools participated in the Kids Helping Kids program during the 2013-2014 school year. Funds raised during the school year came to \$55,233 and sponsored the dreams of 22 local children battling life-threatening illnesses.

Kids Helping Kids is a signature program of Dreams Come True and brings together students and young people with dream recipients. Through the program, money is raised

to sponsor the dreams of local children who are battling a life-threatening illness. Fundraising projects can include car washes, bake sales, dances, talent shows, coin collections and many more activities. Following the events, 100 percent of the funds raised by Kids Helping Kids go directly to dream fulfillment. Each group is given the chance to host a Celebration of Life dream party, which in turn provides an incredible opportunity for the students to meet and spend time with their sponsored dream

child.

Through the Kids Helping Kids program, students experience the amazing satisfaction that comes from helping others; and the dream child meets some very caring students who made his or her dream come true.

The 2013-2014 Kids Helping Kids program included the following NW St. Johns County Schools:

Bartram Trail High School,
Fruit Cove Middle School
Cunningham Creek Elementary
School
Durbin Creek Elementary
School
Switzerland Point Middle
School

Schools, youth groups, clubs or any service/religious organization interested in participating in the Kids Helping Kids pro-



gram or would like additional information, can contact Dreams Come True at 296-3030.

Founded in 1984, Dreams Come True has made dreams a reality for more than 3,000 children in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Dreams

Come True directs 100 percent of all donations, unless otherwise specified, to the dreams of children battling life-threatening illnesses. For more information about Dreams Come True, please visit www.dreamscometrue.org or call 296-3030.

Market Day at Timberlin Creek teaches producer and consumer roles

By Contributing Writer Laurie Lear, First Grade Teacher, TCE



On May 23, students at Timberlin Creek Elementary School recently explored producer and consumer roles at First Grade Market Day. Instructional objectives included creating a product in demand, advertising posters, determining price point and creating their products.

Students produced items such as pencil toppers, bookmarks, molded shaped crayons and pet rocks to sell to other first graders at the school. Parents helped students at home by assigning chores for which they could earn a dollar to purchase items on Market Day.

Market Day was a hit! Students took turns buying and selling their products, while learning valuable lessons in economics and teamwork. When asked what they liked most about the day, many students

stated they liked working at the store because they got to collect money.

After Market Day the first graders learned a final lesson - charity. Dr. Lisa Hill, from the Animal Medical Clinic at St. Johns, brought her dog, Florida and delivered a moving presentation about dog care. All proceeds from Market Day were donated to help with medical needs of rescue dogs like Florida.



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Tree identification book available from the Arbor Day Foundation

The Arbor Day Foundation has a book that helps people identify trees in a simple, step-by-step process. The book, *What Tree Is That?*, is available for a \$5 donation to the nonprofit tree-planting organization. *What Tree Is That?* is a fun, easy-to-use tree identification guide that features hand-drawn botanical illustrations highlighting the distinctive characteristics of many tree species.

Nature lovers and professional arborists alike have called this pocket field guide a must-have user-friendly resource. Its beautiful, full-color illustrations are in precise detail and depict natural colors, shapes and textures, so users can make a positive species identification in just a few easy steps. The Arbor Day Foundation offers this book to help people identify trees in Florida and throughout the Eastern and Central regions of the United States. *What Tree Is That?* uses a unique step-by-step approach for identifying the species of each tree, explaining what to look for in the

shape of the leaves, differences in the leaf stems and twig structures, and specific characteristics of fruits, flowers, buds and bark.

"Our *What Tree Is That?* pocket guide is an ideal resource for developing a greater appreciation for trees," said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The Arbor Day Foundation strives to help people enjoy and appreciate

trees, and we feel our pocket field guide will do just that."

What Tree Is That? is also available as an online interactive version at arborday.org.

To obtain a tree identification guide in full color, send your name, address and \$5 for each guide to *What Tree Is That?*, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410. You can also order the book online at arborday.org.

How to encourage kids to read in the summer

Reading can have a profound impact on a child's life in and out of the classroom. Reading can help a young student develop a more extensive vocabulary and a study from the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics found that reading to young children promotes language acquisition, making it easier for them to learn a foreign language. That's a significant advantage for children growing

up in a world that's increasingly global.

But reading has benefits outside the classroom as well. Reading can provide an escape from the daily grind, which is something even today's youngsters can appreciate. Reading also is a great way for kids to relax and unwind while simultaneously giving their brains a workout.

While many parents recognize the impact reading can have on their children, it's no secret that getting kids to embrace reading can be difficult. Distractions such as video games, social media and even the great outdoors are all there to draw kids away from reading. But parents who want to instill a love of reading in their children can still take steps to ensure their kids don't miss out on the benefits of a good book.

- Read to your children. Numerous studies have discovered various benefits of reading to children when they are young. The National Center for Education Statistics notes that children whose parents read to them typically become better readers and perform better in school. Reading to children early on is the first step toward fostering a love of reading kids will develop and continue throughout their lives. Many parents read to their children at night before bedtime, but any time of day will suffice.
- Don't be discouraged if kids are not interested in books.

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ers, many adults would be hard pressed to locate their local library if asked to do so. But visiting the library is a great way to encourage kids to read, especially if kids have their own library cards. Kids with their own library cards tend to look at visits to the library as shopping trips where they get to make their own choices about what they're taking home with them. And once kids reach a certain age, they can visit the library on their own.

• Share your own reading experiences with children. Kids look up to their parents and often want to mimic their behavior. So parents can set a good example by reading as well. On trips to

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Summer reading cont. on pg. 27

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Summer reading

Continued from page 26

the library, check out your own book. While you might not want to discuss every book you read with your children, discuss the books they're reading. Chances are you read many of those same books yourself when you were a child, and discussing books with your child is a great way to improve his or her reading comprehension.

Distractions abound for today's youngsters, who might not embrace reading as readily as they do video games or social networking. But parents can take many steps to instill a love of reading in their kids that will last a lifetime.

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Tank Maintenance person for dynamic, new retail Aquarium Store - Must have 2+ years experience keeping coral reef &/ or FOWLR aquariums, including invert & basic filtration. This is a hands-on, cleaning maintenance job. Must be able to lift & move 50+lbs when necessary. Attention to detail, ability to follow directions. Part time hourly position which will include evenings and weekends. Apply via email and please include detailed aquarium experience: CoralReefJunkie@gmail.com

Childcare worker needed at River of Life UMC to work every Friday from 6:15pm to 9:15pm. Must be 18 years old and HS graduate CPR Certification would be a plus contact Tina at tina@rulmc.com if interested

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Did you know? Power naps!

According to the National Sleep Foundation, a short nap of 20 to 30 minutes can improve alertness and performance without creating feelings of grogginess or interfering with nighttime sleep. A NASA study that examined sleepy pilots and astronauts found that those who napped for 40 minutes improved their performance by 34 percent. While napping can be beneficial, napping can have a negative impact as well. For example, those who nap too late in the day may struggle to get a decent night's rest later that night, when the length and quality of sleep may not be as long or as strong as it would had they not napped so late in the day. Men and women who find themselves suddenly need naps despite no obvious cause of fatigue should consult their physicians, as this might be indicative of a sleep disorder or another medical condition.



Student Writers Needed!

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Contact Martie Thompson

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Civil Air Patrol

Continued from page 1

knowledge and focus on advances in aerospace technology.

Fifteen year-old Fruit Cove Flight Cadet Staff Sergeant Katrina Diduryk says about the aerospace programs, "I like participating in the aerospace program and flying the most about the Civil Air Patrol."

She continues with a sparkle in her eyes, "I recently got to go on glider rides and in an airplane. Summer Encampment at Camp Blanding was also a lot of fun."

The benefits of CAP are best expressed by Fruit Cove Flight Commander 1st Lieutenant Al Uy SER-173, "What the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) for the youth provides is strong guidance on good leadership principles, physical and mental discipline and it promotes education. Youth that come into the CAP inherently attach themselves to something they enjoy outside of school—activities such as marching, learning about flight dynamics, search and rescue, building the community and other aspects of CAP."

Or as 12 year-old Cadet Airman Basic Christian Sexton sums it up, "It is a great way to get to know people.



Cadet Christian Sexton and Cadet Katrina Diduryk.

Definitely a lot of fun!"

To become a cadet, you must be at least 12 years old and not yet 19 years old. Cadets meet every Tuesday night in Fruit Cove. The meeting place is located in building Annex 106, Oak Leaf Lane and North Ridgecrest Lane from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. For more directions and information, contact Lt. Al Uy at auy@flwg.us. Also, check out www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

"One of the greatest feelings is seeing when they have achieved their next rank, the smile on their face when their parents or other cadets pin the new rank on their collar. We have a lot of Kodak moments," Uy said, sharing his pride.

Start getting ready now:

ID your pet: Make sure that your cat or dog is wearing a collar and identification that is up to date and visible at all times. You'll increase your chances of being reunited with a lost pet by having him or her microchipped. Put your cell phone number on your pet's tag. It may also be a good idea to include the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area—in case you have had to evacuate.

Put together your disaster kit: Every member of your family should know what he or she needs to take when you evacuate. You'll also need supplies for your pet. Stock up on non-perishables well ahead of time and have everything ready to go at a moment's notice. Keep everything accessible and stored in sturdy containers (duffel bags, covered trash containers, etc.) that can be carried easily. Any dry pet food should be stored in airtight containers and refreshed every six months. A basic disaster kit contains food and water for at least five days for each pet, bowls and a manual can opener if you are packing canned pet food. Keep an extra gallon of water on hand if your pet has been exposed to chemicals or flood waters and needs to be rinsed. Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof container and a first aid kit. Cat litter box, litter, litter scoop, garbage bags to collect all pets' waste.

Sturdy leashes, harnesses and carriers to transport pets safely and to ensure that your pets can't escape. Current photos of you with your pets and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated—and to prove that they are yours once you're reunited. Pet beds and toys, if you can easily take them, to reduce stress.

Find a safe place to stay ahead of time: Some communities have groups that have solely focused on providing emergency sheltering for pets and other communities simply don't have the resources. Before disaster hits call your local office of emergency management to see if you will be allowed to evacuate with your pets and that there will be shelters that take people and their pets in your area. And just to be safe, track down a pet-friendly safe place for your family and pets.

If you evacuate, take your pet. Rule number one: If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. Even if you think you will only be gone for a few hours, take your pets. You have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area and you may not be able—or allowed—to go back for your pets. Pets left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost or killed. Those left inside your home can escape through storm-damaged areas, such as broken windows. And pets turned loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water or accidents. Leaving dogs tied or chained outside in a disaster is a death sentence. Rule number two: Evacuate early. Don't wait for a mandatory evacuation order. Some people who have waited to be evacuated by

emergency officials have been told to leave their pets behind.

If you stay home, do it safely. If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together. Make that safe area animal friendly: Close off or eliminate unsafe nooks and crannies where frightened cats may try to hide; move dangerous items such as tools or toxic products that have been stored in the area; be sure to close your windows and doors, stay inside and follow the instructions from your local emergency management office. Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say trouble is on the way. Keep pets under your direct control; if you have to evacuate, you will not have to spend time trying to find them. Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers and make sure they are wearing identification.

If you have a room you can designate as a "safe room," put your emergency supplies in that room in advance, including your pet's crate and supplies. If there is an open fireplace, vent, pet door or similar opening in the house, close it off with plastic sheeting and strong tape. Listen to the radio periodically and don't come out until you know it's safe.

Keep taking care even after the disaster. Your home may be a very different place after the emergency is over and it may be hard for your pets to adjust. Don't allow your pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone and your pet will probably be disoriented. Pets can easily get lost in such situations. While you assess the damage, keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers inside the house. If your house is damaged, your pets could escape. Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible. Be ready for behavioral problems caused by the stress of the situation. If these problems persist or if your pet seems to be having any health problems, talk to your veterinarian.

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Helpful "to-do" list for protecting your pets in a disaster

When disaster strikes, the same rules that apply to people apply to pets: Preparation makes all the difference and if it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them. Take a few minutes to make a plan and assemble an emergency kit for yourself and your pet. See the Humane Society of the United States' disaster and pets' checklist below to get started.

Start getting ready now:

ID your pet: Make sure that your cat or dog is wearing a collar and identification that is up to date and visible at all times. You'll increase your chances of being reunited with a lost pet by having him or her microchipped. Put your cell phone number on your pet's tag. It may also be a good idea to include the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area—in case you have had to evacuate.

Put together your disaster kit: Every member of your family should know what he or she needs to take when you evacuate.

You'll also need supplies for your pet. Stock up on non-perishables well ahead of time and have everything ready to go at a moment's notice. Keep everything accessible and stored in sturdy containers (duffel bags, covered trash containers, etc.) that can be carried easily. Any dry pet food should be stored in airtight containers and refreshed every six months. A basic disaster kit contains food and water for at least five days for each pet, bowls and a manual can opener if you are packing canned pet food. Keep an extra gallon of water on hand if your pet has been exposed to chemicals or flood waters and needs to be rinsed. Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof container and a first aid kit. Cat litter box, litter, litter scoop, garbage bags to collect all pets' waste.

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Cunningham Creek Plantation POA update

By Contributing Writer Linda Stuart

The board of directors for the Cunningham Creek Plantation Property Owners Association met in June. Besides the usual business, the board is working on having a neighborhood event and revising the Architectural Guidelines.

We have had several new homeowners in the area. We send them an official welcome letter, but I am welcoming them to the area. New and existing homeowners are welcome to attend the association board meeting; look for the signs put up a few days in advance. Homeowners are invited to join a committee and get involved!

Our next meeting will be held July 28.

If you are a new homeowner or have a new kindergartner, you are encouraged to register your children for their new school as soon as possible. It makes it easier for the school to have everything ready for your children on the first day of school. If you are transferring from another state, a visit to the school or your physician is necessary to make certain your children have all of the required inoculations.

You might even be given a list of what materials your children should bring to school

on the first day, so they will feel as well prepared as the children who have been attending the previous year. You can also find out what not only the dress code for the school is, but what most students wear so your children have a better opportunity to feel comfortable. Going to a new school appears to be stressful for many children, so to help make it as easy as possible get as much organized as soon as you can.

We are lucky the Bartram Trail Library is close to us. They have excellent programs for your children attend and many fine children's books for them to check and read over the summer. Incidentally, your child might make a new friend! The school your child will attending might have a list of suggested book to read for the next grade level. The librarians at the library are wonderful in assisting all of their patrons.

LUNAR PHASES

Full: July 12

Last Quarter: July 19

New: July 26

First Quarter: August 4



INTERCONNECTIVITY DOES AFFECT EXISTING COMMUNITIES

- Toll Brothers' Julington Lakes proposed gated community (470 homes) in the Julington Creek area, with only one gated entrance. Yet the county stated that the approval of their development is in jeopardy unless additional access points are provided.

Toll Brothers has only four options to provide access for bikes/walkers/emergency vehicles. Two connection options are a "no." Option 1 was with the Gate parcel (Gate wanted to connect instead with EXISTING Aberdeen neighborhood); Option 2 was to connect with the EXISTING Julington Creek Plantation, but their HOA said "no."

Toll Brothers is left with only two other options. Option 3 is to place a gated bike-walk path connecting to Veterans Park. The county has requested Toll Brothers have their GATE OPEN during day hours and closed at 6 pm.

Toll Brothers' Option 4 is to connect to the EXISTING Aberdeen neighborhood. This would be a bike, walk and emergency vehicle road.

OLD NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO PUSHED

CONNECTIVITY - St. Johns Golf & Country Club (SJG&CC) on CR210 was approved in the 80's - yet in 2004, when the developer bought a few more acres to add a few more homes, the county pushed very hard for SJG&CC to connect to the neighborhood one mile south. The county wanted the connection to link to a cul-de-sac. SJG&CC already has four access points, a major collector road, a major sidewalk connectivity, and is not gated - yet the county pushed very hard against the will of the residents.

NW SECTOR PLAN: The proposed changes are to the NW Sector Plan Land Development Code. It has been argued that under the 14th Amendment Establishment Clause all citizens must be treated equally - so what happens in one part of the county has to happen in all parts of the county. It has also been argued that this NW interconnectivity is an example of incrementalism that will spread to other parts of the county. Whether these proposed changes can spread or not - who knows? Those living outside the NW, it is up to you to decide if you want to chance it or be proactive. But those of us living in the NW could use the support of all our county's residents to email our Commissioners your thoughts on the importance of personal property rights.

For more information on Kim J. Kendall's campaign, visit www.VoteKimKendall.com



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In with the old: Aging in today's job market

By Contributing Writer Susan Johnson, St. Johns County Council on Aging

The good news is that, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there will be 31.9 million workers over the age of 55 in the workforce by the year 2015. That same older worker will have a 25.2 percent share of the labor force by the year 2020, a growth rate greater than that of any other age group in the labor pool. Take another five years off the aging process and those statistics increase - the over-50s will snag a whopping 35 percent of the labor force by the year 2019.

Because many older individuals are looking for part-time employment, a business can see considerable cost savings by hiring an older worker. In addition, every percentage point increase of those who do not retire translates to millions more dollars in tax revenue. Older workers also boost Social Security payments and are the demographic with the most leisure time and disposable

income. They spend more hours - and paychecks - in places like gyms, restaurants and car dealerships than any other age group.

Agnes Bloch is a 55-year-old C.N.A with the Council on Aging's Coastal Home Care. She loves her job and feels that she can connect with the people who depend on her for care in a way that a younger professional might not be able to do.

"I know how important staying independent is and I am mindful of allowing my clients the gift of caring for themselves while they are able to do so. Small things like asking about individual likes and dislikes in daily decisions regarding food and clothing choices can make a big difference to an elderly person."

Experts agree that it is just that combination of experience, dedication and insight that makes people like Bloch so valuable in today's workforce. Nancy Urban manages COA's Coastal Home Care and says that older workers account for a little over 50 percent of all those employed in her department.

"The older person on our care team, through their life experience, often has an ability to connect with a client who may be facing difficulties dealing with a loss of independence or conflicts with their adult children. When that higher level of empathy and compassion is offered, it makes for a win-win care situation."

Many who belong to the "boomer generation" have no real plans to retire, are staying at their jobs longer and are contributing more economically. But the sad fact is that a person who is laid off between the ages of 55 and 64 will spend an average of 23 weeks in search of a job. That's about 10 full weeks longer than the median for all other age groups.

With so much to recommend them, why are so many employers still so hesitant to take on the older employee? Peter Cappelli, management professor at the Wharton School of Business and coauthor of "Managing the Older Worker"

says that, when comparing the 17 to 44 year old employee with his or her over-50 counterpart, "every aspect of job performance gets better. I thought the picture might be more mixed, but it isn't. The juxtaposition between the superior performance of older workers and the discrimination against them in the workplace just really makes no sense."

But discrimination in any form makes no sense and the same holds true with misperceptions about the older generation. Despite all evidence to the contrary, they are still perceived by many to be out of touch, disinterested and not worth the investment.

If you're an older worker looking for a job, networking is critical. And one of the best ways to network is through volunteerism. COA Executive Director Becky Yanni began volunteering as a friendly visitor with Coastal Home Care at age 48, then took a paid position in the development office and was appointed executive director of the agency last May at the age of 56. Volunteering also gives job seekers the opportunity to "try out" different careers, thereby increasing their chances of employment.

Another way to improve your odds is to stay current with the latest technology. According to WorkNet, 72 percent of hiring managers felt that mature workers were simply not tech savvy. It's up to you to prove them wrong so either take a computer course - or two! - if you feel the need to update your skills or take some time to discover some new ones. And include any course certifications on your resume.

The vision statement of the Council on Aging is "to provide the opportunity for every person in St. Johns County to enjoy wellness, longevity and quality of life choices within a strong, healthy community." Please call 209-3700 or 209-3655 for information on programs, services, classes and activities that could help you expand an existing talent or interest—or explore a few as-yet undiscovered ones!

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River Garden Gala chairs announced



Local philanthropists Debbie and Jeff Parker have been supporters of River Garden for more than 25 years and are delighted to be able to chair this year's event. Jeff Parker's mother, Barbara, was the first Gala chair and chaired two other galas as well. Debbie Parker, a Foundation board member, has been on the Gala committee for 22 years and brings her expertise of chairing and serving on committees throughout the city. Along with River Garden, the Parkers support The Bolles School, Jewish Family and Community Services, the Jacksonville Jewish Federation, the Torah Academy and the Jewish Community Alliance. The Parkers also started a scholarship fund for exceptional students seeking degrees in engineering at the University of North Florida and the University of Central Florida.

Jeff and Debbie Parker are also known as one of the most fun couples in town, so we are in for quite an evening!

The formal event will be held this year at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort on November 22, 2014 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Atlanta Party Band and this year for the first time there will be an "After Party Experience" where the music will keep playing and playing... This event benefits River Garden Hebrew Home/Wolfson Health and Aging Center.

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Congratulations to the U-18 Creek Krush Class of 2014 and Coach Dave Silverberg! The following graduates will be competing in college soccer this fall: Susannah Anderson, Elon University; Taylor Berry, Florida Gulf Coast University; Madison Caldwell, Florida Atlantic University; Bailey Dotsikas, Jacksonville University; Genevieve Henderson, College of Charleston; Mikki Lewis, Troy University; Mikayla Olson, University of North Florida; Jessica Potts, High Point University; Megan Rogers, United States Naval Academy; Courtney Schell, Auburn University; Jordon Tindell, Valparaiso University; Tanner Wallace, Texas Christian University; Hanna Parado, University of North Florida; and Mecca Cobbin, Troy University.



The St. Johns Suns Sixth Grade AAU basketball team took first place in the Memorial Day Classic, held May 23 through 26 in Orlando at the ESPN Wide World of Sports. They defeated seventh grade Brevard Bulls 26-25. This is the team's first year competing in AAU and they also placed third in the girls' State Championships in Tavares, Florida on May 17 and 18. Pictured are Emily Smith, Bri Lane, Tess Goff-Hill, Taylor Wright, Madison Lippy, Coach Scott Clark, Bella Weary, Taylor Bonazelli, Tori Grambo and Channing Chappell. (Not pictured are Avery Patterson and Jayden Fields.) Way to go, Suns!

Loggerhead Aquatics hosts invitational meet

By Contributing Writer Lorraine Herreros



The Julington Creek Loggerhead Aquatics swim team recently hosted its annual Invitational Meet at the JCP Recreation Center. Eight and under swimmers Olivia Moore, Jolie Nguyen and Zach Sargeant had a great meet with Moore finishing first in the 50 back, 25 fly and 100 IM and second in the 50 free. Nguyen raced to second place in the 50 back and 25 breast and third in the 50 free and 100 IM. Sargeant got first place in the 50 back and second in both the 50 free and 25 fly.

Highlights for the 9-10 age group included Anna Moore's first place finishes in the 100

back, 50 breast and 100 fly and second place in the 100 free. Emma Chestang took first in the 100 free and second in the 50 breast and 200 IM. Elizabeth Pauly raced to second place in the 100 back and 200 IM and third in the 50 fly. Lizzie Ryan's performance in the 50 fly brought her second place and Brooke Arnold took home third place honors in three events: the 100 back, 50 breast and 100 fly. For the boys, Jonathan Kim won four blue ribbons, taking first place in the 100 free, 100 back, 50 breast and 50 fly. Alex Subotich got first in the 200 IM and second in the 100 free, 50

and third in both the 50 breast and 50 fly and Lauren Donaldson's second place finishes in the 100 back and 50 fly. Jack Van Deusen came in first in the 50 breast and second in the 100 free, 50 fly and 200 IM. Isaiah Thompson was first in the 50 fly and third in the 100 free, 50 breast and 200 IM. David Gapinski earned second in the 100 back and third in the 50 fly and Nate Pollitt raced to third in the 100 back.

JCLA 13-14 swimmers who achieved first place finishes at the meet were Abbey Ellis, Lauren Trummel, Eleanor Pollitt and Ryan Krejci. Second

master's degree from UNF.

She met Espinosa while teaching Vacation Bible School at a local church. Espinosa was the singular kindergarten teacher at JCE, which was then only a few years old. Espinosa promised to put in a good word for Woodard to get a job at the school and the rest is history. The two friends taught side by side for 17 years until Espinosa retired. Woodard would continue on for another 18 years and Espinosa, although retired, was never far away. She substituted and helped in the classroom frequently.

Woodard has many fond memories of her time at JCE. Of particular note to her are the contributions of Beverly Fleming, who was responsible for educat-

ing the students about nature and gardening in a hands-on way for 25 years. Woodard is also pleased to have worked for all 10 of the principals who have led JCE.

"I have such good memories, particularly of all the children," she says.

Julington Creek families over the years have recognized Woodard's unique ability to reach and relate to young children and their young minds. Her classroom was known for always being respectful, encouraging and polite.

"Kids are so perceptive," Woodard shares. "They know if you want to be there. And I always wanted to be there."

So, what are her plans for retirement?

"Oh, I have very exciting

Marie Woodard

Continued from page 1

well as the display of banners and laminated pictures signed by teachers and students wishing her a happy retirement.

Then on Friday evening, she was again surprised by an after school hours event attended not only by friends and family, but by both current and former faculty and staff members. Fruit Cove Middle School band director Don Isabelle as well as former JCE principal Dr. Paul Goricki provided musical entertainment and Pastor Wes Slough led the invocation. Speeches honoring Woodard were given by her husband, daughter, close friend and former colleague Joanne Espinosa and School Board member Beverly Slough.

"I was particularly touched by Assistant Principal Monique Keaton reading the letter from my Teacher of the Year nomination this year," Woodard recalls. "It was a very special evening."

It was practically destined that Woodard would become a teacher. Her mother taught third and fourth grades for 45 years just outside of Birmingham, Alabama and even her father taught high school. Woodard recalls going to school in the morning and, as the teacher's daughter, helping other students who were struggling. She loved to read and would spend her afternoons reading.

After she married her husband, Gary Woodard, his job as a project engineer caused them to leave Alabama and make frequent moves around the country. She never gave up on her dream of becoming a teacher and would attend whichever college was closest to them at the time. By the time they moved to Jacksonville, she had attended and received credits from six colleges. The University of North Florida would be her seventh and final stop.

"I told my husband that I was determined to get my degree from UNF!" Woodard recalls. By that time, the couple had three daughters and Woodard did finally graduate with her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Years later, she also received her

breast and 50 fly. Collin Hearn's swims earned him second in the 100 back and third in the 100 free and Richie Nguyen took third place in the 100 back.

Among the outstanding swims for the 11-12 age group were Yvette Zerry's first place in the 50 breast, second in the 200 IM and third in the 100 free, Natalie Hert's first place in the 100 free

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place winners were Gaby Hert and Megan Arnold, with Anna Gapinski and Adrian Oake earning third place honors.

Fifteen and over Loggerhead swimmers Evan Jacob, Carter Strickland and Faith

Rogers swam to first place, Ben Aufdenberg achieved second place and Owen Wheeler, Ethan Chestang, Jane Wadhams and McKenzie Fox earned third place at the Invitational. Congratulations to all!



Marie Woodard with JCE Assistant Principal Monique Keaton and JCE Principal Michael Story at her surprise celebration.

things to do!" she says. "Like clean my house of all the school stuff!"

Kidding aside, plans are also in the works for a trip to Bermuda this summer and one day

she hopes go to Europe to see Big Ben.

Best wishes to you, Mrs. Woodard and a great big "Thank you!" from your Julington Creek Elementary family.



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Good Deed Brigade**13 Virtues that stand the test of time, change and technology**

By Contributing Writer David Wolf

Over the past year, the Good Deed Brigade has featured articles on modern day local heroes who have given their time, skill and heart to perform good deeds and wonderful acts of kindness. Hopefully, these profiles have inspired you to be a better person and to be part of the movement and philosophy promoted and embodied by the Good Deed Brigade. There is a well-known hero who graced this country with his wisdom, courage, intellect and, yes, acts of kindness and good deeds from 1706 - 1790 by the name of Benjamin Franklin.

Most people recognize the general work and contributions of Benjamin Franklin as a statesman, postmaster general, printer, writer, founding father and inventor. Among Franklin's body of work was his autobiography which was not quite finished as it was still being written up to the time of his death. Within the book, there are gems of knowledge, advice

and philosophy that we all can use even in this modern fast-paced world we live in.

In particular, the 13 Virtues are worthy of mention and study. At the age of 20, Franklin created this system to track his day, good deeds, faults and progress. His plan was to attain a form of perfection. Franklin learned later in life that was not possible; however, he realized that the attempt at perfection through the mastery of the 13 Virtues made him a better man who was content and very productive.

Franklin put the 13 Virtues in a particular order with the idea of focusing and mastering one virtue per week while keeping track of the slips of the virtues down the line from the virtue at hand. He kept a handwritten chart listing each virtue and each day of week. Here are the 13 Virtues along with a brief description provided by Franklin himself for each.

1. Temperance: Eat not to dull-

CBC Riverhawks Black 11U win AAU Grand

By Karl Kennell

The CBC Riverhawks Black 11U out of Creeks Baseball Club, RiverTown in St. Johns County recently won the AAU Grand Nationals Championship. The tournament was played at ESPN Wide World of Sports at Disney World in Orlando. This win makes them the first team in the North

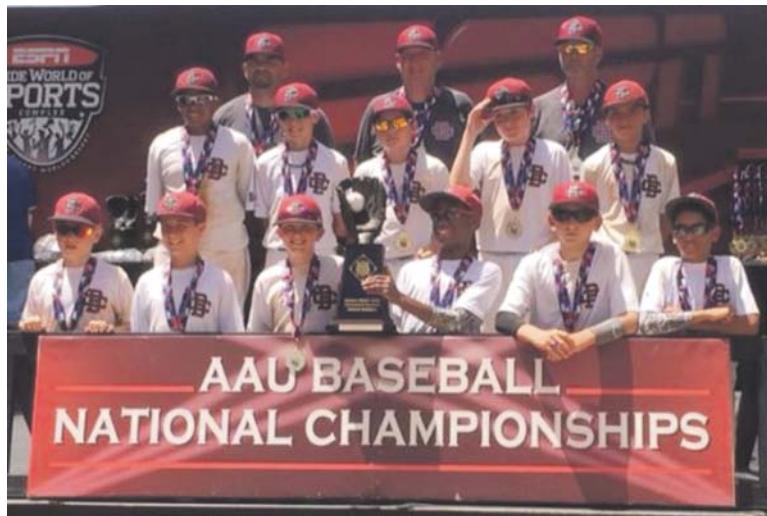
Florida area to win this tournament more than once. They also won this same tournament two years ago at level 9U.

CBC Riverhawks Black 11U is made up of players who have been together as team for a while. They include Gunner Boree, Jacob Topping, Bryce Brindle, Colby Frieda, Brady

Ortman, Jackson Mayo, Connor Hults, Owen King, Joseph Alvarado, Tyler Worth, Justin Cayenne and Dylan Dudones. During the tournament Hults and Ortman combined to throw a perfect game with a 12-0 win.

During the tournament they played teams from all over the country and were undefeated for the entire week. They went 10-0 in top bracket play with a win in the final game (score 8-0) over a top five team in the country. By officially winning this AAU National Championship, they are qualified to play in the Elite NYBC (New York Baseball Championships) in August.

We can all be proud of the accomplishments of CBC Riverhawks Black 11U. They have an overall season record of 58-5 with eight tournament championships under the coaching of Coaches Bill Parham and Luke Marabell. Congratulations!

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injuries so much as you think they deserve.

10. Cleanliness: Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes or habitation.

11. Chastity: Rarely use venery but for health or offspring; never to dullness, weakness or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.

12. Tranquility: Be not disturbed at trifles or at accidents common or unavoidable.

13. Humility: Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

As readily admitted by Franklin, nobody can be perfect or maintain the above virtues 100 percent of the time, but we

can all strive to be better and do better. In addition to tracking his daily virtues, Franklin made it a point of maintaining a calendar with his general work and personal activities for the day.

It is interesting and quite enlightening to see that Franklin listed two important questions on his daily calendar as follows:

The morning question:
What good shall I do this day?

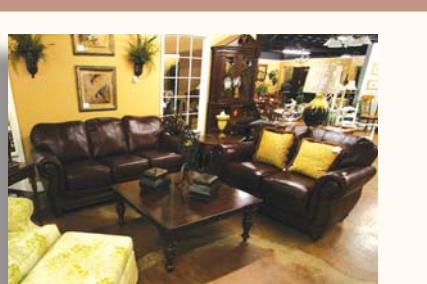
Evening question: What good have I done today?

Like the virtues, Franklin's use of a daily calendar and focus on these two very important questions stand the test of time, change and technology.

For those of you interested in reading more about Franklin and his 13 Virtues, here is a link to his autobiography to check out: www.ushistory.org/franklin/autobiography/singlehtml.htm

The Good Deed Brigade salutes Benjamin Franklin for his awesome body of work and his timeless advice and methods he provided for future generations. Follow the example set by the actions and words of Benjamin Franklin. Remember, wherever you see the Good Deed Brigade, it's all good.

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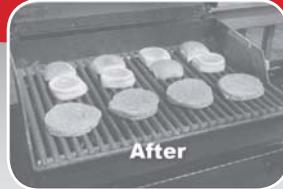
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Native Plants 101: What's the big deal?

What's the big deal about native plants anyway? Learn from the experts on July 17 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the St. Johns County Wind-storm Training Center, located at 3111 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine. Florida Native Plant Society associates will help you adjust to the Florida gardening experience. Create or enhance your yard utilizing tips from Renee Stambaugh, native plant consultant; Beverly Fleming, nature columnist; and Eric Powell, president of the local Sea Oats Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

After 20 years in the Washington DC area, including five years as a "personal gardener" (hand-pruning, planting and landscaping yards), Powell's life "went south" to St. Augustine where he couldn't get enough of Florida's native plant abundance. Over the last three years, Powell has used his acquired knowledge and experience to transform his own large native "yarden" and was recognized locally for his award-winning landscape.

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Gardening: A holistic approach

By Contributing Writer Master Gardener Lesley Arrandale with Duval County Extension, University of Florida/IFAS

The Suwanee Valley Agricultural Extension Center (see <http://svaec.ifas.ufl.edu/>) in Live Oak serves the small farmer and also offers some programs for homeowners. Staff run an experimental farm using catch crops, cover crops and plants to attract beneficial insects and consequently birds, which have all helped to virtually eliminate the need for crop spraying. The farm was originally run conventionally and, as we found out in a recent workshop, was routinely mowed on one Friday and sprayed the next, year round; every two weeks chemicals were used to keep pests under control.

When they decided to avoid using chemicals on their crops, it wasn't at all clear to the extension service staff what would happen. They guesstimated that within two to three years their new practices would have begun to take effect. Imagine their surprise when all it took was a season or two to discover that these measures were already making significant differences. By various trapping methods and observation, they determined that insect balances—between harmful and beneficial insects—were adjusting in the farm's favor.

Now the fields are edged with sunflowers ("Giganteus" variety) which "catch" and provide food for leaf-footed bugs, whereas before they would have made their way directly into the tomato crop. Once the bugs are established, the sunflowers are sprayed to wipe them out before they can spread. The important point is that the food crops don't need to be blanket sprayed; if pests on them ever reach unacceptable levels, they can be dealt with by spot spraying.

We saw beneficial insects galore on the next line of defense—a dozen or so rows of buckwheat. Predatory wasps were happily flitting around and homing in on their prey—caterpillars, whitefly and so on. Big-eyed bugs were attracted too. These would be so helpful to the homeowner with a chinch bug infestation;

indeed, chinch bugs wouldn't necessarily escalate to "infestation" levels if there was a population of the beneficial big-eyed bugs to prey on them.

So, you may be wondering, what is the point of this for the homeowner, with maybe a couple of pots of tomatoes, a lawn and a shrub border or two? Well, basically it comes down to trying to adjust your own ecosystem to avoid an imbalance of insects; encouraging a wide variety into your yard ensures that those you want will help deal with those you don't.

For a nicely illustrated article on the good guys, check out: <http://lpm.uga.edu/beneficials/beneficials.html>

In a mixed border, grow simple flowers and flowering shrubs—include natives and select for year-round blooms. In my yard I like the "weed" (according to some) Virginia spiderwort. Early in the year the honeybees flock to its beautiful blue flowers. As the year goes on, good insect attractants include the chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*). All manner of good bugs flock to its blooms. Later in the summer dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) simply comes alive.

For information on the bloom times and other characteristics of some of Florida's native flowers, check out <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep061>



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Captain David's Fishing Report

By Captain David Lifka

It is time to take advantage of summer time fishing as fishing begins to peak. Whether you fish from the shore, a dock or pier or own your own boat, our area offers us a variety of fishing choices that are just moments away from our own backyards. Making a fishing trip happen may be easier than you would think.

We can start with our neighborhood ponds as nearly all our ponds offer some pretty good fishing that the whole family can enjoy. With bream, bass and catfish being plentiful, Dad can work his baitcaster or practice casting flies, while the kids and mom are soaking worms, bread balls and even hot dog pieces waiting for that bream or catfish to bite.

With just a little more effort we can pack the gear and the family into the car and make a quick trip to one of the many nearby docks that are located on the St. Johns River or one of its feeder creeks. Historic County Dock off of Mandarin Road provides great river accessibility to nearly every species of fish that an angler may encounter in our area of the river. Redfish, sheepshead, black drum and croaker are some of the saltwater species you can expect to catch, along with bream, bass, catfish and mullet

for some of the freshwater species. Similar river fishing can be expected at the old Shands Pier in Orangedale where State Road 13 meets State Road 16 at the traffic light. Both locations can be excellent for shrimp if a shrimp run should occur in the upcoming weeks.

For a little more serious freshwater fishing with the same easy access and easy planning, the dock located at Mandarin Park off Mandarin Road on Julian Creek or the old Pacetti's Fish Camp docks and bulkhead located south of Orangedale on State Road 13 on Trout Creek are certainly worth a try. The Mandarin Park dock comes with amenities that make it a family-friendly location. Besides being a safer than usual platform for the younger ones to fish from, there is also a playground, picnic tables and restrooms. If you are hoping for a trophy bass or a stringer of bream then the old Pacetti's Fish Camp is definitely worth wetting a line. With a variety of live baits for sale right on the premises and hundreds of feet of Trout Creek access by bulkhead, Pacetti's offers some of the best freshwater fishing around without a boat.

If you happen to own a boat, you too can take advantage of what our area has to offer and be just be moments

away from fishing the St. Johns. For most boats, nearby access would include boat ramps at Goodby's, Hood Landing, Mandarin Park, Pacetti's, Trout Creek and Palmo Fish Camp.

Whether it's freshwater fishing or saltwater fishing, from shore, dock, pier or boat, our fishing opportunities are many and just moments away from our own backyards.

Fishing Report: Summer rain has slowed much of the fishing for saltwater species. Start looking for improvement in coming weeks if heavy rains hold off. Bream and bass on docks from Buckman south. Start testing the waters for shrimp.

Whether you catch one, some or none, the family time spent fishing will last a lifetime.

Congrats, JCB Stars!



Congratulations to the 12u District II Champions, JCB Stars. The Stars will be headed to Live Oak to participate in the state tournament July 9 through July 13. Pictured are Logan Cavanaugh, Gerald Ledet, Sam Goodson, Matt Sarmie, Nick Scarpello, Tyler Metz and Luke Ussery, Gavin Johnson, Colby Grant, Cole Burgess, Jake Vorburger, Sean Gray and Fletcher Cline, Coach Metz, Coach Scarpello and Coach Ray. Not pictured is Jacob Toenjes.

St. Johns County boys win 16s and 14s main draw

Gator Bowl Juniors Tennis Tourny has record-breaking registration

By Contributing Writer Diana Gardner, League Coordinator, USTA Florida Junior Team Tennis

The 2014 Gator Bowl Tennis Recruiting National Event sanctioned by the USTA was held on June 28 through July 1. UNF hosted the Boys 14s and all the 16s and 18s while Glen Kernan

Country Club hosted Boys and Girls 12s and Girls 14s. Matches won counted toward player Tennis Recruiting ranking; additionally USTA ranking points were awarded based on the L7 point table. Very few doubles tournaments are available statewide, but it was offered to all registered singles players. The Gator Bowl was open to all USTA members. Tournament Director Randy Jenks was assisted by co-director Scott Miller, while the head official was Lou Keith with a team of referees.

St. Johns County (SJC) boys swept the 16s and 14s events. Brandon Pham (number one seed) of St. Johns won the Boys 16s Singles with an exciting 2-6, 6-3, 13-11 finish against Alex Guzhva of Ormond Beach. Will Rose of St. Johns (number four seed) won the Boys 14s Singles with a decisive win over James Emslie (3) of Tampa 6-1; 6-1. Thomas Salmon of Ponte Vedra Beach battled his way to the Boys 18s Singles Consolation Finals, finishing second. Patrick Hawkins and Jay Kirkley, both of Ponte Vedra, made it through the quarterfinals of the 12s. Several other Jacksonville players successfully reached finals in both the main and Consolation rounds.

St. Johns County girls made their presence known by the numbers of participants. Playing in the Girls 18s events, Marisa Ruiz (1) of Jacksonville made it to the finals and Lauren Stuckey (3) of St. Augustine played through to the 16s quarterfinals while Carrigan Blanchard of Jacksonville (3) played to the round of 16. The 14s were filled with SJC girls: Maureen McCormack, Alyssa Hensley, Emily Kastelman, Cynthia Kaman, Jemimah Tassopoulos, Valerie Rehrig and Azurae Bolt.

A majority of the 216 players live in the greater NE Florida four-county area with more than 20 St. Johns County residents. Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Puerto Rico were also represented. The Gator Bowl has enjoyed a long standing history in Jacksonville. The time of year and host sites have varied. Players, parents and coaches look forward to par-



Will Rose of St. Johns won the Boys 14s Main Draw

ticipating in this annual event. The Main Draw winners are listed below; please visit the website for details of the other divisions.

Winners in Main Draw

- Singles:
 - Boys 18s - Davis Stewart of Haines, Georgia, def Tripp Tuff (8) of Jacksonville Beach, 6-3; 6-3
 - Boys 16s - Brandon Pham (1) of St. Johns def Alex Guzhva of Ormond Beach 2-6; 6-3; 13-11
 - Boys 14s - Will Rose (4) of Jacksonville def James Emslie (3) of Tampa 6-1; 6-1
 - Boys 12s - Liam Vakili (2) of Longwood def Ivan Cedric Esquerre (4) of Gainesville 6-4; 6-2
 - Girls 18s - Lauren Hidalgo-Smith (2) of Boca Raton def Marisa Ruiz (1) of Jacksonville 6-2; 4-1 Ret (pc)
 - Girls 16s - Elizabeth Truluck of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina def Emily Dush of Gainesville 3-6; 6-2; 10-6
 - Girls 14s - Willa Breunich (1) def Savannah Williams (2) both from Port St. Lucie 6-1; 6-4
 - Girls 12s - Alisa Popov (4) def MaryBeth Whitlock (3) both of Panama City 6-3; 6-3

For more information regarding USTA Florida junior tennis, including the very popular 10 and under tennis program, tournaments, events and Team Tennis Challenge schedule, go to USTAFlorida.com and search Youth Tennis.

For information about the monthly Grand Prix boys' and girls' singles events go to: <http://www.usptaplayer.com/communities/jacksonville>.

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- HeartWise screenings, by appointment.
- Healthy living, free talks

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Creekside High School's annual Running of the Knights a big success!

By Contributing Writer Debby McKernan, Creekside Athletic Booster Club

Thank you to all students, coaches, staff, parents, volunteers and community members who participated in Creekside's fourth annual Running of the Knights 5K, 1 Mile Fun Run, Centipede Team Race and Festival on May 16. With over 650 people registered, this event continues to foster spirit among our school and local community! The proceeds from this event, over \$24,000, go directly back to our athletic teams, band, and performing arts.

The overall male 5K finisher was Matt Bulecza (16:38) and overall female 5K finisher was Amy Purcell (21:27). Congratulations to Sarah Schreck, winner of the 2015 Logo Design Contest. She was presented a \$500 scholarship and her framed artwork by Leonard's Photography.



We would like to thank our sponsors who have generously supported Creekside High School and Running of the Knights:

Grand Sponsor: Ultimate Racing, Inc. Presenting Sponsors: St. Johns Pediatric Dentistry, Leonard's Photography, Atlas Physical Therapy. Official Centipede Team Race Sponsor:

Academy Sports. Official Race Running Store: Jacksonville Running Company. Supporting Sponsors: The Law Offices of Anne Marie Gennusa; The Law Offices of Beller and Bustamante; Tuffy's Automotive; Crown Trophy; Blackstone Grille; Occupational and Rehabilitation Center, Dr. Tan; The Center for Health and Sports Medicine, Dr. Ross Osborne; Avecina Medical; Test Prep for Success; Moe's; The Vivid Agency; Spectrum Signs and Graphics; The UPS Store in Fruit Cove; Panera Bread; Daily's; and Sign It Quick.

Creekside High School would like to give a special thanks to the following businesses and organizations for supporting Running of the Knights: Danielle Walker Photography; Kathy Scott, State Farm Insurance; RPM Automotive; Fire-



house Subs on State Road 13; Publix Supermarkets; Brucci's in Fruit Cove; Tropical Smoothie in Bartram Walk; Zaxby's in Bartram Park; PDQ in Bartram Park; United States Army; United States Marines; Jax Sports Nutrition; 110% Play Harder; Creekside Spirit Wear; Fun and Fit, LLC; Premier Designs - Linda Nelson; Silpada Designs - Kathy Zimardo; Thirty-One Gifts - Ginger Handley; Mary Kay Cosmetics - Priscilla Pulliam; Rodan and Fields - Jenny Adams; and JCP CARES.



If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this annual event, please see our website, www.runningoftheknights.com.

This event could not have taken place without the time, dedication, energy and talents of the Running of the Knights planning committee. Parent Volunteers: Michelle Clark and Susanna Vance, Co-Chairs; Jennifer Bias, Graphics; Monica Chachra, Event Booths; Stephannie Collins, Volunteer Coordinator, Entertainment; Anne Marie Gennusa, Sponsorship and CK-ABC President; Luke and Phyllis Guthrie, Registration; Heidi Hess, Centipede Chair; Maria Petow, Communications; Melissa Posey, Graphics, Sponsorship; Frances Sanfiorenzo, Sponsorship, Entertainment; and Ashley Schaefer, Event Booths. Staff and faculty committee members: Guy Harris; Tina Northcut; Susan Wyatt; and Eric Frank. Student committee members: Hunter Clary and McKayla D'Iangianni.

A huge thank you also to our announcer James Scribner, the Creekside Knights Athletic Booster Club and the Creekside Band Boosters, as well as over 40 wonderful volunteers who helped.



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With views of the 6th hole of the Golf Club at South Hampton, this spectacular home has a gourmet kitchen with black appliances and a screened lanai. \$446,000

5 Bedrooms | 5 Full Bath | 3,881 sq.ft.
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Located on a private nature preserve, this immaculate two-story home features a yard with a professionally installed putting green and practice tee. \$449,900

4 Bedrooms | 3 Full Bath | 1 Half Bath | 3,572 sq.ft.
NIINA BAY 904.553.8518



8232 River Rd.
St. Augustine, FL 32092

This waterfront home with 90' dock is great for entertaining with a temp. controlled sun room running the width of the home with views of the water. \$565,000

3 Bedrooms | 2 Full Bath | 1 Half Bath | 2,451 sq.ft.
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101 Belmont Dr.
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Situated on almost 3 acres in a premier equestrian community, this home boasts an elegant iron staircase and beautiful kitchen with antique cabinetry. \$699,000

5 Bedrooms | 3 Full Bath | 1 Half Bath | 3,900 sq.ft.
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5579 Steamboat Rd.
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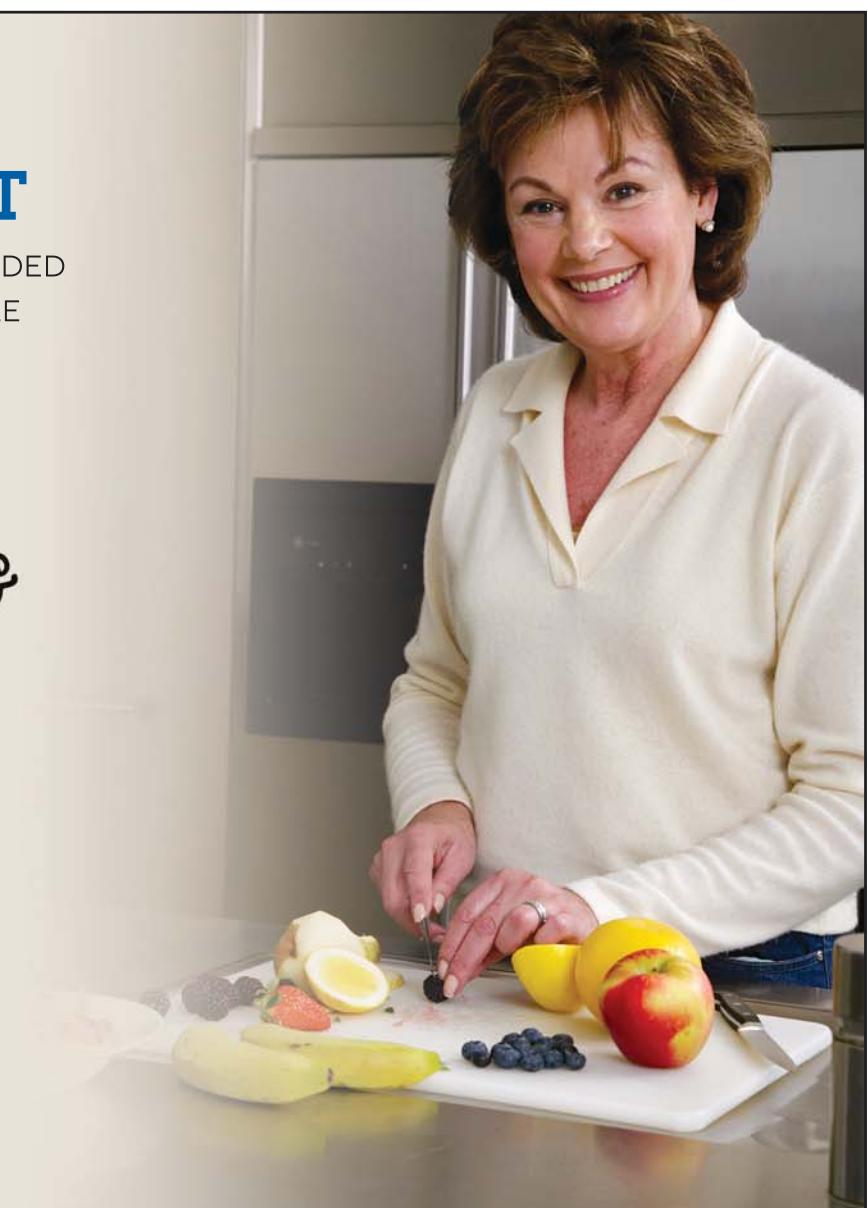
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Reviewed by Brian B.

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